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ABSTRACT

This factbook presents statistical data and examines trends for 10 indicators of children's well-being in Georgia. The indicators are: (1) low birthweight infants; (2) infant mortality; (3) death rate of children ages 1 to 14 years; (4) violent death rate of teenagers aged 15 to 19 years; (5) rate of child abuse and neglect; (6) juveniles committed to state custody; (7) birthrates to teenagers aged 15 to 19 years; (8) high school completion; (9) kindergarten retention; and (10) family at risk index, defined as percent of first births to mothers who are younger than 20 years old, unmarried, or have not completed high school. Section 1 of the report, "Indicators of Child and Family Well-Being," defines the indicator, its significance, discusses contributing factors and changes since the 1980s, presents a line graph showing trends over 13-14 years, county comparisons, and a table listing numbers, rates, and rankings for every county and for the state. Section 2, "Special Report: Poor Children and Their Families," examines children's economic well-being. The major finding of the report is that since 1993, there has been improvement on 6 indicators and setbacks on 3. There are also marked racial and county differences in several indicators. (Tables and methodology information are appended.) (KDFB)

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1994 Georgia Kids Count

factbook

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Georgia Kids Count is a project of Georgians for Children in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Department of Children and Youth Services, Department of Education and the Emory University School of Public Health.

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Additional copies of the ***1994 Georgia Kids Count Factbook*** are available for $12 from:

Georgia Kids Count
Georgians for Children
3091 Maple Drive, NE, Suite 114
Atlanta, Georgia 30305
Phone: (404) 365-8948
Fax: (404) 365-9009

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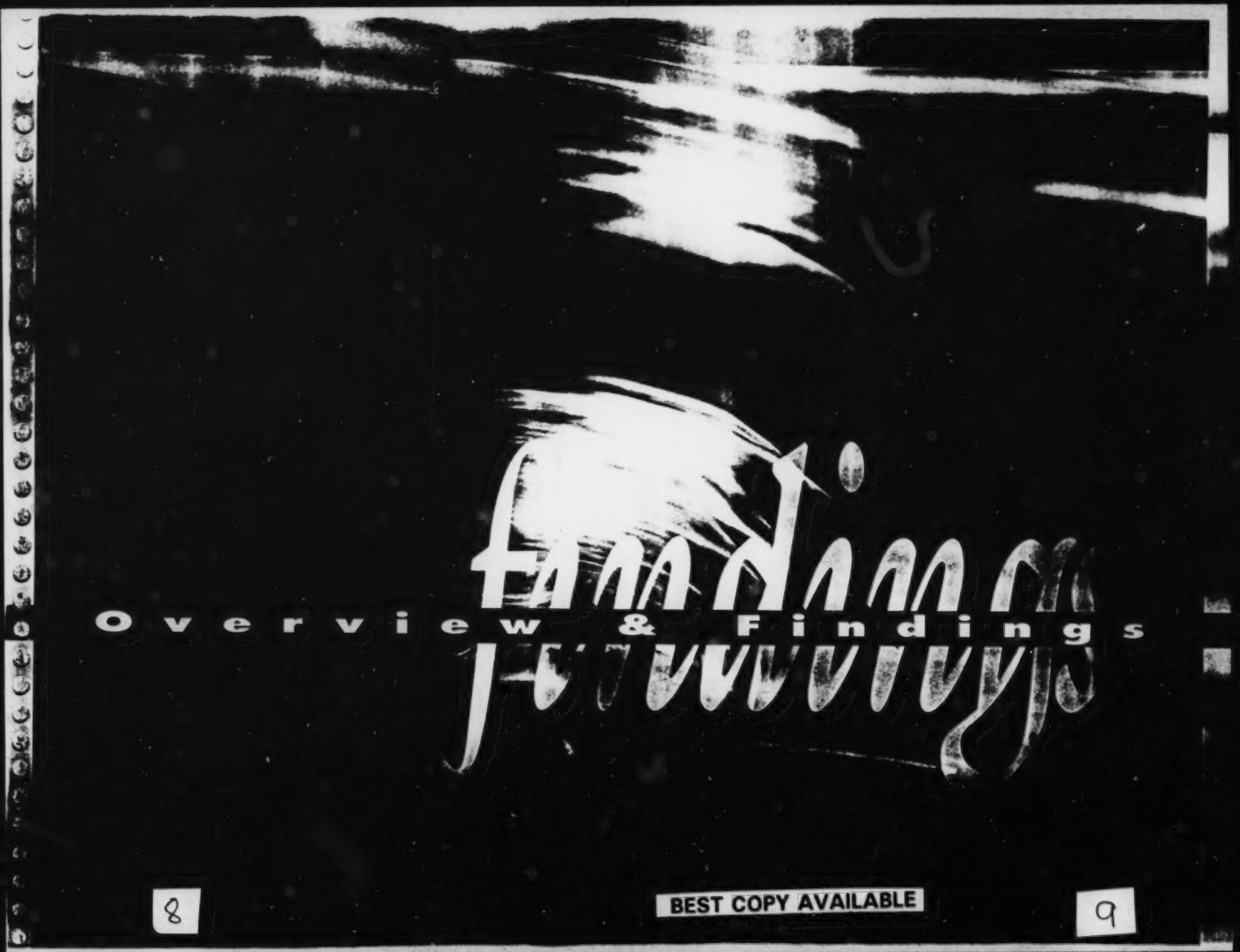

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"America's future is forecast in the lives of its children and the ability of their families to raise them."

– National Commission on Children

The **1994 Kids Count Factbook** is the third annual assessment of the well-being of children in Georgia. As with the earlier reports, the **1994 Factbook** provides a statistical portrait of the status of children by examining the best publicly available data on the state and its 159 counties.

The goal of Kids Count is to track important trends in child well-being to encourage public awareness and accountability for the status of children. The **Factbook** provides a yardstick by which the state and local communities can monitor progress, assess policies, guide budget priorities, and target investment in areas where it is most needed.

Findings

The **1994 Kids Count Factbook** shows that Georgia's children are faring better on most indicators of child well-being.

Since Last Year

There has been improvement on 6 of 10 indicators, no change in low birthweight births, and setbacks on 3 (youth committed to state custody, abused and neglected children, and youth completing high school).

Since The 1980s

The **1994 Factbook** updates trends reported last year to provide a 13 or 14 year perspective. This broader view shows improvements statewide on 6 of the 9 indicators (no child abuse data for the 1980s) and setbacks on 3 (births to teens, youth committed to state custody, and families at risk).

Challenges Remain

While most indicators show improvement, the overall

picture presents challenges for Georgia. On the one hand, we must look outward and compare our performance to other states; on the other, we must take a closer look within to see if improvements are shared among all of Georgia's children.

State Comparisons

As we approach the 21st century Georgia must prepare its children to compete in a global economy. While it is difficult to make any meaningful comparisons between Georgia and whole nations, we can make comparisons to other states in terms of child well-being and economic development.

- ***Child Well-Being*** In the *1994 National Kids Count Databook* Georgia ranks 47th overall in child well-being. Only the children of Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi are doing worse. On 8 of 10 indicators Georgia ranks among the bottom quarter of states. In the seven years for which a national ranking is available, Georgia's composite score has ranged from a "high" ranking of 44th in 1988 to a "low" of 48 in 1991 and 1992.
- ***Economic Development*** In the *1994 Economic Development Report Card for the States,* Georgia receives mixed grades. Georgia's best overall grade is a "B" for "Business Vitality." In the areas of "Economic Performance" and "Development Capacity," the state receives a "C." These latter two mediocre grades conceal substantial variation—from top rankings in employment, financial resources and infrastructure to near-bottom rankings in equity, human resources and technology resources. Thus, for example, while Georgia has the best high way system in the country, the state is ranked 47th in income disparity and 45th in Ph.D. scientists and engineers in the workforce.

Inside Georgia

A second challenge stems from the fact that statewide rates on the Kids Count benchmarks

Tracking Child Well-Being:
Rates and Percent Change Since 1993 Factbook

Indicators	1993 Factbook	1994 Factbook	Percent Change
Low Birthweight Births	8.6%	8.6%	↓ 0.5%
Infant Deaths (per 1,000)	11.4	10.3	↓ 9.7%
Child Deaths (1–14 yrs.) (per 100,000)	35.9	31.9	↓11.1%
Teen Violent Deaths (15–19 yrs.) (per 100,000)	75.5	72.0	↓ 4.7%
Abused and Neglected Children (per 1,000)	15.3	15.9	↑ 3.3%
Births to Teens (under 18) (per 1,000)	54.6	53.8	↓ 1.6%
Youth Committed to State Custody (10–17 yrs.) (per 1,000)	4.7	4.9	↑ 4%
High School Graduates (within 4 yrs.)	66.1%	64.6%	↓ 2.3%
Children Retained in Kindergarten	5.0%	4.1%	↓18.5%
Families at Risk*	49.8%	49.2%	↓ 1.1%

*First births to mothers with at least one risk factor: under age 20, not a high school graduate, or not married.

mask grim inequities. Not all children share the increased opportunities and benefits brought by these positive trends in Georgia. Too often children are left behind because of the color of their skin or where they live.

- ***Racial Differences*** Infant mortality, for example, is twice as great among African-American children as white children. Indicators are reported by race when race-specific data are available. On each of the 7 indicators for which data are available by race, African-American children fare considerably worse than white children.
- ***County Differences*** In some counties, for example, more than 80% of students graduate high school on time, in others less than half do. Almost every county has at least one indicator below the state average.

Large and Small Counties

Counties were classified as large or small depending on whether their population was above or below 80,000. By this criterion there are 15 large counties and 144 small counties.

Snapshot

The 15 large counties are home to 51% of Georgia's children. These children are more likely than children in small counties to be minority (42% as compared to 29%), to live in single-parent families (27% as compared to 22%), and to have a mother who works outside the home (72% compared to 70%).

Georgia's 144 small counties are home to 49% of children. Mean family income is substantially lower ($34,947 as compared to $47,591) and child poverty rates are higher (22% as compared to 18%) in the small counties as compared to the large counties. On 7 of the 10 indicators children living in the small counties fare worse than children in the large counties (child death, teen violent death, abused and neglected children, teen birth, high school completion, kindergarten retention, and families at risk). The 3 indicators on which the small counties do better are low birthweight births, infant deaths, and juveniles committed to state custody.

Trends in Small Counties

When the 1990s are compared to the 1980s, the smaller counties show improvement on 5 of the 9 indicators, no significant change on 2 (low birthweight births and families at risk), and a decline on 2 (births to teens and youth committed to state custody).

Trends in Large Counties

The larger counties posted improvements on 3 of the 9 indicators and a decline on 6. The 3 showing improvement are infant deaths, child deaths and children retained in kindergarten.

Organization of 1994 Factbook

The **1994 Kids Count Factbook** is divided into four sections: Overview and Findings, Indicators of Child and Family Well-Being, Poor Children and their Families, and Appendices.

Indicators of Child & Family Well-Being

This section is the heart of Kids Count and contains updated data on 10 indicators of child and family well-being.

As in past years, each indicator is presented in a four page section providing statewide and county-level data. For each section narrative information is organized as follows:

- ***Definition*** A description of the indicator and what it measures.
- ***Significance*** Why an indicator reflects child and family well-being.
- ***Who Is at Risk*** A look at the children and families most at risk of poor outcomes.
- ***Contributing Factors*** The individual, family and community characteristics shown to play a leading role in shaping outcomes.
- ***Change Since the 1980s*** A look at how children are faring thus far in the 1990s compared to the 1980s.

In addition, each section presents data in the following ways:

- ***Trend Graph*** A line graph showing trends, by race when available, over a 13 to 14 year period.
- ***County Table*** Current data are presented for the 3 to 4 year period since 1990, by race when available, and compared to the average rate of the 1980s.
- ***Map*** The map highlights those counties which have witnessed substantial change since the 1980s.

Special Report: Poor Children & Their Families

This section examines in greater detail the economic well-being of children, paying particular attention to families living at or near the federal poverty level. A profile of children in poor families is presented using 1990 census data. For the first time, data from the 1993 Current Population Survey on the severity of poverty are provided showing the distribution of Georgia

Tracking Child Well-Being: Rates and Percent Change Since Baseline Year

Indicators	Baseline Year	1994 Factbook	Percent Change
Low Birthweight Births	8.7% (1980)	8.6%	↓ 1.4%
Infant Deaths (per 1,000)	15.8 (1980)	10.3	↓35.1%
Child Deaths (1–14 yrs.) (per 100,000)	45.9 (1980)	31.9	↓30.4%
Teen Violent Deaths (15–19 yrs.) (per 100,000)	85.5 (1980)	72.0	↓15.9%
Births to Teens (under 18) (per 1,000)	52.7 (1980)	53.8	↑ 2.0%
Youth Committed to State Custody (10–17 yrs.) (per 1,000)	3.3 (1982)	4.9	↑48.7%
High School Graduates (within 4 yrs.)	58.7% (1980)	64.6%	↑10.1%
Children Retained in Kindergarten	4.2% (1984)	4.1%	↓ 2.8%
Families at Risk*	46.9% (1980)	49.2%	↑ 4.9%

*First births to mothers with at least one risk factor: under age 20, not a high school graduate, or not married.

families with children at different income levels.

Since income data at the county level are only collected once every ten years as part of the census, two alternative measures of poverty are presented—children receiving AFDC and students enrolled in the free or reduced price school lunch program. These are proxy measures of poverty, but they do provide some indication of economic hardship. In subsequent years, these data will be updated and tracked as a new Kids Count benchmark.

Appendices

This section includes a discussion of methodology and three tables with supporting data for the graphs and tables found in each of the indicator sections.

What We Don't Know

To make the best decisions about how to help children and families we must first know the facts. The purpose of the **Kids Count Factbook** is to provide this information in a timely, accessible and credible fashion. The **Factbook** presents carefully collected and analyzed numbers and statistics, and it documents trends over time and differences among our state's counties. Ultimately, however, Kids Count is limited by current state data collection systems.

- ***Integrated Database*** While Kids Count seeks to present a picture of the "whole" child, available data on children and their families is fragmentary and categorical. There is no coordinated statewide database that permits us to link individual children and their families across different agencies. If Georgia is to be effective in monitoring the well-being of its children and families, there must be consistency and links among the data-collection systems used throughout the state.
- ***Data Collection*** There are far too many areas of child and family well-being in which no uniform data are collected on an annual basis for all 159 counties. Examples range from mental health to hunger, school suspensions to homelessness, substance abuse to poverty.

In Sum

Georgians for Children publishes the **Kids Count Factbook** each year to empower citizens, community leaders, policymakers and advocates to make changes that will improve the quality of life for children, and in so doing, improve the quality of life in our state as a whole.

The **1994 Factbook** provides local communities an unprecedented opportunity to assess progress in their own county by comparing current rates to the 1980s and, when data are available by race, it is possible to see if improvements are being shared equally. This information can serve as the launching pad for action across the state.

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"The weight of a baby at birth is a key indicator of newborn health and it is directly related to infant survival, health and development."

—Improved Outcomes for Children Project

GEORGIA'S 1994 NATIONAL RANK

45

Definition

The low birthweight rate is the percentage of live births in which the infant weighed less than 5.5 pounds (2,500 grams). Many low birthweight infants are born prematurely (less than 37 weeks gestation), but full-term infants can also be low birthweight.

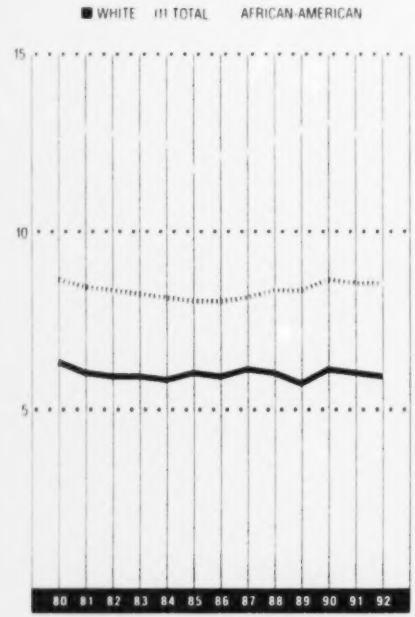
Significance

Sixty percent of all infant deaths are related to low birthweight. A low birthweight baby is forty times more likely to die in the first four weeks of life than a normal weight baby. In recent years, however, advances in medical technology have enabled more low birthweight infants to survive.

Low birthweight infants who survive are about three times more likely than other babies to experience mental

Low Birthweight Rate, Georgia, 1980–1992

Births of infants weighing under 5.5 pounds per 100 live births



NUMBER, 1992.....9,502
RATE, 1992.....8.6

1.4 % CHANGE FROM 1980

0.5 % CHANGE FROM 1991

retardation, sight and hearing deficiencies, growth and developmental problems, chronic lung and respiratory problems, and learning difficulties.

Contributing Factors

Researchers have identified several factors that contribute to low birthweight including maternal health and behavior, and access to quality prenatal and postnatal care.

- ***Maternal Health*** Behavioral risk factors associated with low birthweight births include smoking, poor nutritional status, alcohol or drug use, physical and emotional stress, physical abuse during pregnancy, and exposure to toxic substances or sexually transmitted diseases.

  Medical risks associated with low birthweight births include inadequate maternal weight gain, hypertension, diabetes, short time spans between pregnancies, and child bearing under age 15 or over age 40.

- ***Prenatal and Postnatal Care*** There are a variety of reasons why women may not receive adequate health care. Providers who do not accept Medicaid insurance or who do not use a sliding fee scale pose financial barriers for low-income women. In rural or low-income areas there may not be enough health care providers. For some women transportation may be a problem. Other reasons women may not seek health care range from language and cultural differences to depression and substance abuse.

Who Is At Risk?

- **The low birthweight rate for African-American infants is 13.1%, more than twice the rate of 6% for white infants.***
- **National data show infants born to mothers with less than a high school education have a greater chance of being born low birthweight than infants whose mothers finished high school.**

*Based on 1992 data

*Changes Since The 1980s**

- **The low birthweight rate increased 3.3%.**
- **For African-Americans the rate increased 3.7%, while for whites it remained about the same.**
- **In the large counties the rate increased 6%, while in the small counties it stayed the same.**

*Measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1989 to the period 1990–1991.

SOURCES OF DATA

Data come from birth records maintained by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Office of Vital Statistics.

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Infants born weighing less than 5.5 pounds (2500 grams), number and rate (per 100) for 1990-1992, and percent change* since 1980s

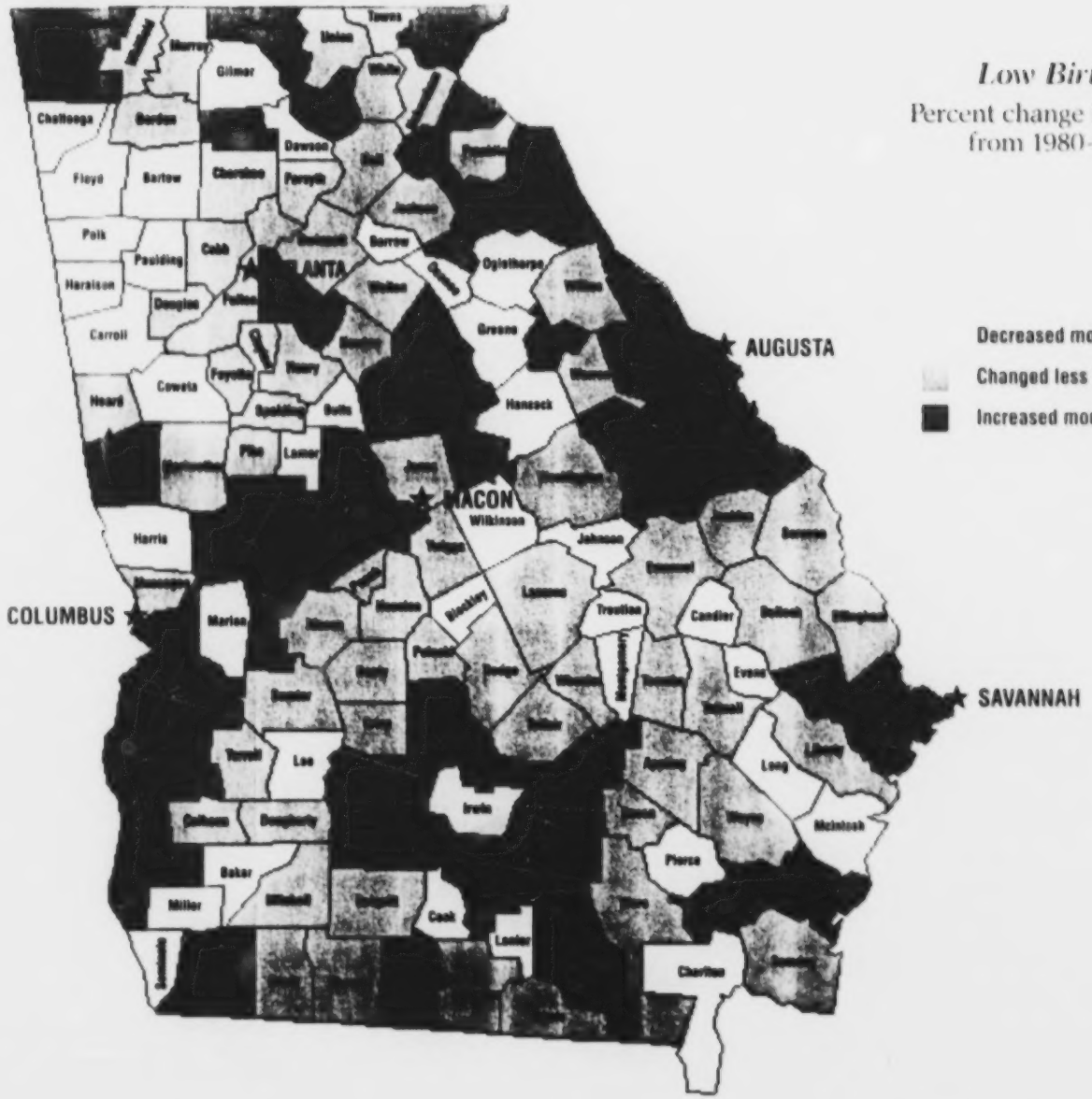
Counties with population greater than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	236	654	893	11.5	18.7
CHATHAM	373	857	1,240	10.4	13.2
CHEROKEE	297	11	310	5.8	-7.3
CLARKE	90	206	301	8.5	14.2
CLAYTON	407	376	802	7.9	8.6
COBB	1,026	433	1,494	6.6	6.1
DEKALB	596	1,961	2,648	9.5	12.9
DOUGHERTY	129	440	571	10.7	6.6
FLOYD	180	116	299	8.0	-14.6
FULTON	675	3,164	3,887	11.0	4.1
GWINNETT	885	176	1,116	5.8	1.8
HALL	307	64	375	7.3	5.6
HOUSTON	190	165	361	7.9	8.8
MUSCOGEE	335	647	993	9.3	7.8
RICHMOND	323	776	1,112	10.2	19.0
15 Large Counties	6,049	10,016	16,482	9.9	8.0

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	31	18	49	8.5	-4.8
ATKINSON	19	20	39	10.8	11.2
BACON	17	16	33	8.0	3.8
BAKER	5	5	10	7.0	-15.5
BALDWIN	53	140	195	11.0	18.4
BANKS	31	6	37	10.2	37.0
BARROW	85	24	110	6.3	28.1
BARTOW	152	40	195	6.4	16.9
BEN HILL	34	51	85	10.3	34.7
BERRIEN	43	24	67	10.1	24.1
BLECKLEY	29	17	37	7.7	-26.1
BRANTLEY	37	7	44	8.7	42.1
BROOKS	20	46	67	9.2	12.3
BRYAN	51	23	74	8.4	15.2
BULLOCH	61	85	146	7.8	-8.1
BURKE	25	130	154	13.2	38.8
BUTTS	21	30	51	8.1	-20.6
CALHOUN	2	18	20	10.5	5.5
CAMDEN	98	62	162	7.4	1.4
CANDLER	5	15	20	5.1	24.0
CARROLL	165	85	250	7.0	-16.9
CATOOSA	141	3	145	8.0	31.5
CHARLTON	16	11	27	6.0	-21.0
CHATTAHOOCHEE	26	26	52	6.8	21.7
CHATTOOGA	49	11	60	6.7	-22.4
CLAY	1	18	19	11.7	11.8
CLINCH	13	13	26	8.6	26.4
COFFEE	80	97	177	10.3	15.9
COLQUITT	62	81	143	8.4	-6.1
COLUMBIA	159	46	209	6.3	13.0
COOK	16	33	49	7.3	14.4
COWETA	111	129	240	7.9	11.0
CRAWFORD	28	19	47	12.9	44.9
CRISP	37	81	118	10.8	5.7
DADE	41	0	41	7.2	23.6
DAWSON	27	0	27	5.8	-17.3
DECATUR	49	82	131	10.0	23.6
DODGE	36	48	84	10.5	8.3
DOOLY	5	44	49	10.2	-8.2
DOUGLAS	189	49	241	6.6	2.9
EARLY	22	45	67	10.8	13.8
ECHOLS	2	0	2	NA	
EFFINGHAM	61	35	96	7.7	2.7
ELBERT	43	49	92	10.4	17.5
EMANUEL	33	57	91	9.0	-3.0
EVANS	8	28	36	8.3	-15.3
FANNIN	36	0	36	7.0	17.1
FAYETTE	97	25	126	5.4	1.3
FORSYTH	136	0	136	6.2	-6.4
FRANKLIN	42	28	70	9.3	1.0
GILMER	31	1	32	5.1	-34.6
GLASCOCK	6	1	7	9.3	47.8
GLYNN	127	164	292	9.9	20.5
GORDON	122	11	133	7.8	-0.8
GRADY	28	50	78	8.5	-0.7
GREENE	6	46	52	8.7	-21.1
HABERSHAM	71	4	78	7.0	-5.3
HANCOCK	7	36	43	9.7	-15.2
HARALSON	52	8	60	6.6	-20.0
HARRIS	31	22	53	6.5	-16.5
HART	44	34	79	9.6	11.9
HEARD	21	9	30	8.3	-3.3
HENRY	164	51	215	6.3	-8.9
IRWIN	7	18	25	7.3	-29.6
JACKSON	92	20	112	7.7	-5.2
JASPER	18	23	41	10.9	23.3
JEFF DAVIS	36	16	53	9.5	13.9
JEFFERSON	22	99	121	12.8	22.8
JENKINS	15	24	39	8.7	-0.8
JOHNSON	10	17	27	7.1	-28.4
JONES	35	30	66	8.0	0.8
LAMAR	20	18	38	6.2	-28.7
LANIER	10	9	19	7.3	-15.0
LAURENS	68	98	166	8.5	-5.1
LEE	40	15	55	7.8	-10.4
LIBERTY	117	190	317	7.5	1.0
LINCOLN	13	20	33	10.3	13.6
LONG	23	6	29	6.8	-13.8
LOWNDES	117	186	305	7.6	-6.9
LUMPKIN	52	0	52	8.1	21.7
MACON	12	55	67	9.5	-3.5
MADISON	69	19	88	8.3	13.1
MARION	9	8	17	6.9	-35.8
MCDUFFIE	25	75	100	10.2	18.2
MCINTOSH	19	16	35	7.5	-32.0
MERIWETHER	32	76	108	10.5	-1.2
MILLER	7	10	17	6.6	-18.9
MITCHELL	25	92	117	10.6	-6.0
MONROE	35	39	74	9.2	30.1
MONTGOMERY	10	11	21	7.0	-15.7
MORGAN	27	41	68	10.7	22.6
MURRAY	88	1	89	8.7	3.4
NEWTON	110	72	186	7.8	0.0
OCONEE	33	10	43	5.5	-11.4
OGLETHORPE	23	9	32	7.0	-12.9
PAULDING	126	13	139	5.4	-24.4
PEACH	30	71	101	9.4	-3.4
PICKENS	48	1	49	7.7	17.9
PIERCE	22	12	34	5.6	-27.6
PIKE	19	19	38	8.3	-9.1
POLK	92	31	124	8.2	-17.2
PULASKI	10	22	32	8.6	-1.2
PUTNAM	19	41	60	10.1	17.3
QUITMAN	4	10	14	13.6	41.9
RABUN	36	0	36	8.4	20.2
RANDOLPH	7	37	44	10.9	14.8
ROCKDALE	138	49	193	7.7	11.2
SCHLEY	3	15	18	12.2	24.3
SCREVEN	16	46	62	8.6	-9.7
SEMINOLE	13	19	32	7.7	-24.0
SPALDING	108	178	288	9.8	1.2
STEPHENS	59	28	89	8.3	11.1
STEWART	3	33	36	15.4	38.8
SUMTER	31	115	147	8.7	-5.2
TALBOT	15	32	47	13.8	31.8
TALIAFERRO	3	8	11	18.0	51.1
TATTNALL	40	25	66	8.0	-6.6
TAYLOR	14	45	59	14.0	53.5
TELFAIR	14	40	54	10.2	3.6
TERRELL	7	56	63	11.2	1.2
THOMAS	61	107	169	8.1	-4.1
TIFT	73	102	175	9.6	14.1
TOOMBS	58	50	110	8.3	0.0
TOWNS	13	0	13	7.6	-2.2
TREUTLEN	5	8	13	4.6	-51.1
TROUP	113	163	277	9.4	11.0
TURNER	14	45	59	13.1	21.3
TWIGGS	10	35	45	10.0	7.8
UNION	29	0	29	6.9	7.3
UPSON	54	60	114	9.8	21.7
WALKER	192	12	204	8.3	25.4
WALTON	106	77	185	8.8	-4.4
WARE	62	66	128	8.1	-9.3
WARREN	6	34	41	13.8	7.8
WASHINGTON	15	80	95	9.8	2.1
WAYNE	54	41	95	8.4	9.5
WEBSTER	2	5	7	8.8	24.0
WHEELER	3	12	15	6.8	-5.8
WHITE	36	2	38	6.9	-3.8
WHITFIELD	277	17	294	7.7	4.8
WILCOX	10	21	31	10.3	43.0
WILKES	8	34	42	10.3	4.3
WILKINSON	16	17	33	6.8	-29.7
WORTH	38	69	107	11.0	21.0
144 Small Counties	6,595	5,684	12,349	9.2	-0.1
GEORGIA	12,615	15,730	28,751	8.6	3.1

*Percent change measures the change in rates from the period 1980-1989 to the period 1990-1992. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.
NA: Numbers too small to calculate a rate.



Low Birthweight Births

Percent change in low birthweight rates from 1980–1989 to 1990–1992

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"Infant mortality is a key measure of a society's overall health status and treatment of families."

—*Children's Defense Fund*

GEORGIA'S
1 9 9 4
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48

Definition

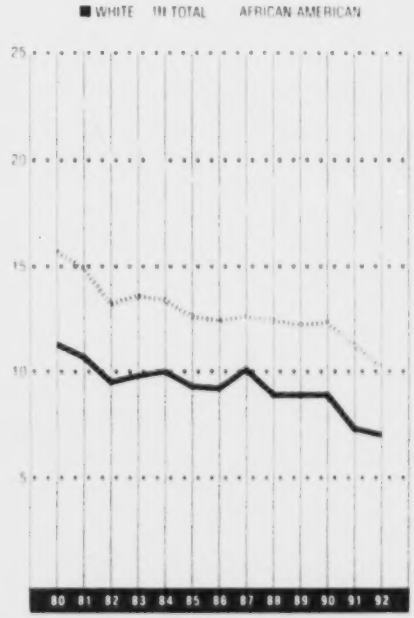
The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths, out of every 1,000 live births, occurring to infants under one year of age. Neonatal mortality refers to infants who die within 27 days after birth and postneonatal mortality refers to the deaths occurring between 28 days and one year of age.

Significance

The infant mortality rate reflects the health of pregnant women and infants, the conditions in which they live, and the parenting that the infant receives. Because the infant mortality rate reflects such a broad range of economic, social and medical conditions, it is often regarded as an indicator of a community's overall quality of life.

Infant Mortality Rate, Georgia, 1980–1992

Deaths per 1,000 live births



NUMBER, 1992 1,139
RATE, 1992 ..... 10.3

35.1

% CHANGE FROM 1980

9.7

% CHANGE FROM 1991

Contributing Factors

- ***Infant Health*** Health factors which contribute to infant death include birth defects, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), maternal complications during pregnancy, respiratory distress syndrome, and disorders related to low birthweight and early delivery. These infant health problems are often associated with poor maternal health.
- ***Environment*** Inadequate nutrition, housing, sanitation or supervision, and violence are also associated with infant mortality. An infant death can occur if parents have difficulty assessing the health of their baby or following medical orders.

*Who Is At Risk?**

- **The infant mortality rate of 15.8 per 1,000 for African-American babies is more than twice the rate of 7.1 for white infants.**
- **The neonatal mortality rate of 6.7 per 1,000 is nearly twice the postneonatal death rate of 3.6.**

*Based on 1992 data

- ***Health Care*** Lack of health care services for low-income families and limited access to basic preventive and well-baby care increase the chances that an infant will die.

*Changes Since The 1980s**

- **The infant mortality rate decreased 15.2%.**
- **For African-American babies the rate declined 12.5%.**
- **For white infants the rate declined 20.3%.**

*Measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1989 to the period 1990–1992.

SOURCE OF DATA

Data come from birth and death certificate records maintained by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Office of Vital Statistics.

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Infant deaths, number and rate (per 1,000) for 1990–1992, and percent change* since 1980s

Counties with population greater than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	38	101	141	18.2	15.7
CHATHAM	46	121	169	14.2	-9.3
CHEROKEE	42	0	42	7.8	-24.4
CLARKE	17	27	45	12.7	18.3
CLAYTON	54	66	122	12.1	6.0
COBB	108	54	164	7.2	-29.2
DEKALB	74	258	344	12.4	-4.4
DOUGHERTY	7	59	66	12.4	-27.8
FLOYD	30	24	54	14.4	-1.4
FULTON	75	378	457	12.9	-20.4
GWINNETT	102	30	137	7.1	-11.0
HALL	35	9	44	8.6	12.6
HOUSTON	24	32	56	12.3	13.4
MUSCOGEE	50	88	139	13.0	15.2
RICHMOND	47	110	158	14.4	8.9
15 Large Counties	749	1,357	2,138	11.6	-12.3

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	3	4	7	9.3	-22.2
ATKINSON	6	2	8	22.1	38.1
BACON	2	3	5	12.0	7.2
BAKER	0	2	2	NA	
BALDWIN	5	20	25	14.1	-14.2
BANKS	4	0	4	NA	
BARROW	7	6	13	7.5	-28.0
BARTOW	18	5	23	7.6	-40.4
BEN HILL	5	8	13	15.7	15.2
BERRIEN	4	3	7	10.5	8.9
BLECKLEY	1	1	2	NA	
BRANTLEY	2	0	2	NA	
BROOKS	5	9	14	19.3	38.2
BRYAN	10	3	13	14.8	38.4
BULLOCH	9	10	19	10.2	-2.5
BURKE	5	13	18	15.5	1.1
BUTTS	4	3	7	11.1	-45.3
CALHOUN	1	0	1	NA	
CAMDEN	9	7	16	7.3	-52.3
CANDLER	0	1	1	NA	
CARROLL	20	9	29	8.2	-42.2
CATOOSA	17	1	18	10.0	16.9
CHARLTON	4	0	4	NA	
CHATTAHOOCHEE	6	8	14	18.3	86.1
CHATTOOGA	8	2	10	11.2	11.9
CLAY	1	3	4	NA	
CLINCH	0	5	5	16.6	42.1
COFFEE	13	7	20	11.7	-44.0
COLQUITT	12	9	22	12.9	-24.5
COLUMBIA	23	2	25	7.5	-31.5
COOK	5	2	7	10.5	-37.6
COWETA	12	16	28	9.2	-20.7
CRAWFORD	2	5	7	19.2	96.2
CRISP	6	10	16	14.6	3.3
DADE	2	1	3	NA	
DAWSON	3	0	3	NA	
DECATUR	6	15	21	16.1	2.0
DODGE	9	8	17	21.3	50.1
DOOLY	0	6	6	12.5	-7.7
DOUGLAS	26	6	32	8.8	-17.0
EARLY	4	7	11	17.7	-25.3
ECHOLS	1	0	1	NA	
EFFINGHAM	10	4	14	11.3	-5.5
ELBERT	8	15	23	26.1	93.8
EMANUEL	9	10	19	18.8	27.3
EVANS	3	3	6	13.9	-15.3
FANNIN	7	0	7	13.6	44.6
FAYETTE	12	3	15	6.5	-11.3
FORSYTH	10	0	10	4.5	-53.3
FRANKLIN	6	5	11	14.7	-3.3
GILMER	3	0	3	NA	
GLASCOCK	2	1	3	NA	
GLYNN	27	13	40	13.5	-14.7
GORDON	13	2	15	8.6	-25.2
GRADY	7	5	12	13.0	-43.1
GREENE	0	8	8	13.4	-42.8
HABERSHAM	11	1	12	10.8	-4.6
HANCOCK	1	7	8	18.1	-21.1
HARALSON	10	1	11	12.1	8.1
HARRIS	2	1	4	NA	
HART	7	3	10	12.2	-32.8
HEARD	3	0	3	NA	
HENRY	13	6	19	5.6	-35.0
IRWIN	2	3	5	14.6	23.3
JACKSON	19	3	22	15.1	22.0
JASPER	1	0	1	NA	
JEFF DAVIS	6	2	8	14.4	21.9
JEFFERSON	3	12	15	15.9	-12.3
JENKINS	0	3	3	NA	
JOHNSON	2	6	8	21.0	4.5
JONES	5	8	13	15.7	19.2
LAMAR	4	2	6	9.8	-32.0
LANIER	2	0	2	NA	
LAURENS	14	20	34	17.4	4.2
LEE	6	3	9	12.7	-4.4
LIBERTY	20	30	50	11.9	-3.6
LINCOLN	1	1	2	NA	
LONG	1	0	1	NA	
LOWNDES	18	30	48	11.9	-4.7
LUMPKIN	2	0	2	NA	
MACON	1	5	6	8.5	-51.9
MADISON	11	3	14	13.3	59.6
MARION	0	1	1	NA	
MCDUFFIE	3	2	5	5.1	-62.8
MCINTOSH	5	7	12	25.8	38.9
MERIWETHER	5	6	11	10.7	-47.7
MILLER	2	5	7	27.1	66.9
MITCHELL	2	6	8	7.2	-55.6
MONROE	7	4	11	13.6	21.5
MONTGOMERY	1	1	2	NA	
MORGAN	1	1	2	NA	
MURRAY	8	0	8	6.1	-32.2
NEWTON	16	10	26	10.9	-10.1
OCONEE	6	1	7	9.0	23.6
OGLETHORPE	2	2	4	NA	
PAULDING	14	3	17	6.6	-37.6
PEACH	5	14	19	17.8	11.9
PICKENS	12	1	13	20.5	33.7
PIERCE	3	3	6	10.0	-28.0
PIKE	3	1	4	NA	
POLK	5	10	15	9.9	-14.8
PULASKI	1	2	3	NA	
PUTNAM	3	6	9	15.1	4.9
QUITMAN	0	3	3	NA	
RABUN	7	0	7	16.3	115.0
RANDOLPH	0	3	3	NA	
ROCKDALE	12	9	21	8.4	-26.4
SCHLEY	0	2	2	NA	
SCREVEN	1	8	9	12.5	-11.9
SEMINOLE	0	5	5	12.0	-29.2
SPALDING	7	23	30	10.2	-32.4
STEPHENS	10	4	14	13.0	19.8
STEWART	0	7	7	29.9	12.9
SUMTER	5	18	23	13.5	-22.6
TALBOT	0	3	3	NA	
TALIAFERRO	0	0	0	NA	
TATTNALL	8	2	10	12.0	5.7
TAYLOR	3	4	7	16.6	-22.9
TELFAIR	4	7	11	20.7	39.7
TERRELL	0	7	7	12.4	-51.7
THOMAS	10	13	23	11.1	-31.7
TIFT	11	15	26	14.3	13.8
TOOMBS	7	7	14	10.5	-22.7
TOWNS	2	0	2	NA	
TREUTLEN	1	2	3	NA	
TROUP	16	21	37	12.5	9.1
TURNER	0	7	7	15.6	-4.9
TWIGGS	1	2	3	NA	
UNION	0	0	0	NA	
UPSON	6	4	10	8.6	38.0
WALKER	32	1	33	13.5	18.1
WALTON	16	9	25	11.9	-23.5
WARE	8	12	20	12.7	-11.7
WARREN	0	3	3	NA	
WASHINGTON	1	11	12	12.4	-16.0
WAYNE	3	3	6	5.3	-63.1
WEBSTER	0	2	2	NA	
WHEELER	0	4	4	NA	
WHITE	6	0	6	10.9	-18.7
WHITFIELD	30	2	33	8.7	-19.0
WILCOX	2	0	2	NA	
WILKES	2	2	4	NA	
WILKINSON	0	2	2	NA	
WORTH	3	8	11	11.3	10.3
144 Small Counties	850	761	1,644	11.0	-18.7
GEORGIA	1,629	2,118	3,782	11.3	-15.7

*Percent change measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1982 to the period 1990–1992. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.
NA: Number too small to calculate a rate.

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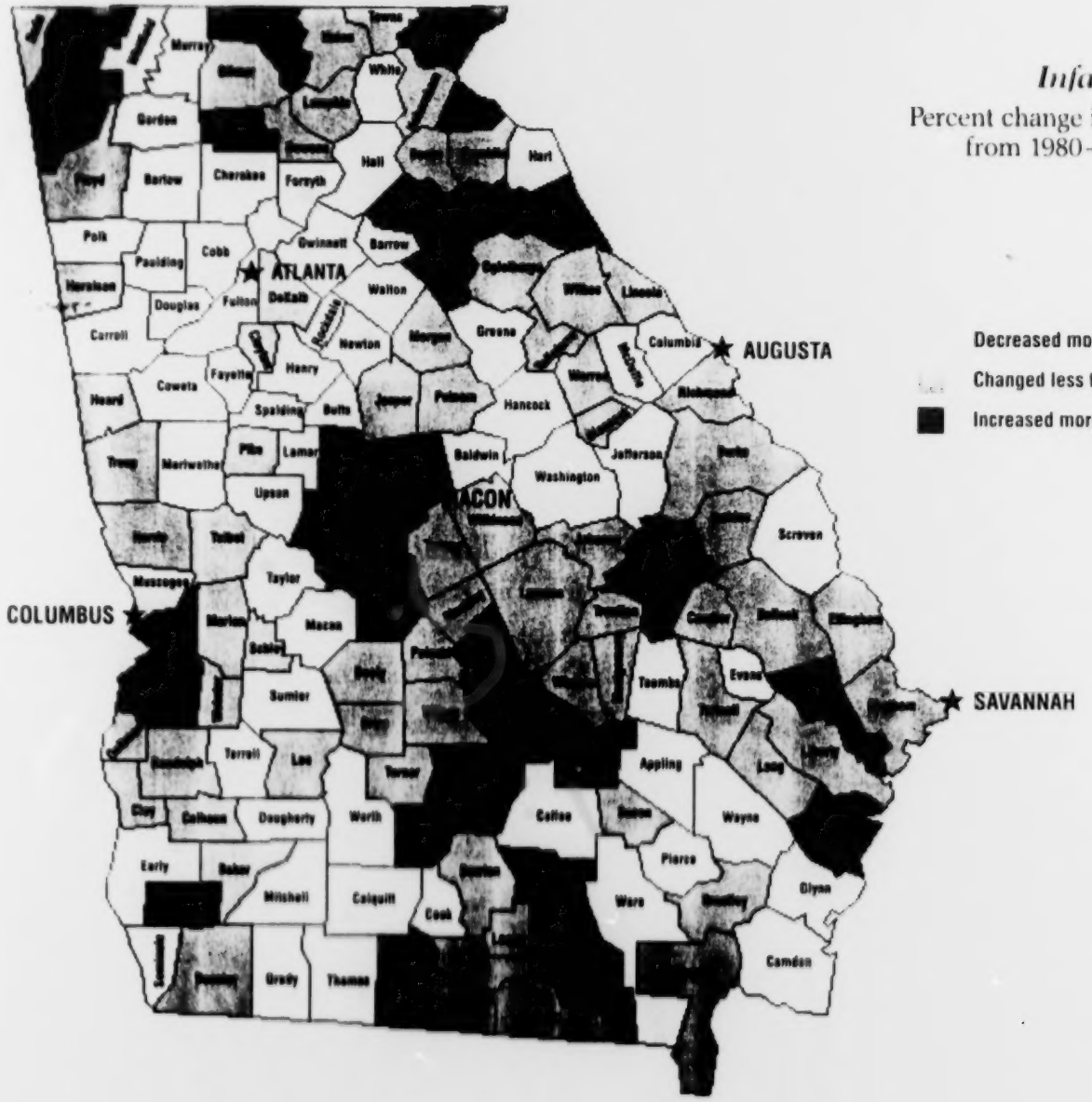

Infant Deaths

Percent change in infant mortality rates
from 1980–1989 to 1990–1992

Decreased more than 10%

Changed less than 10%

Increased more than 10%

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Good health involves more than medical care. Being healthy also means being safe."

—*Carnegie Corporation of New York*

GEORGIA'S 1994 NATIONAL RANK

43

Definition

The child death rate is the number of deaths from all causes to children between ages one and 14, per 100,000.

Significance

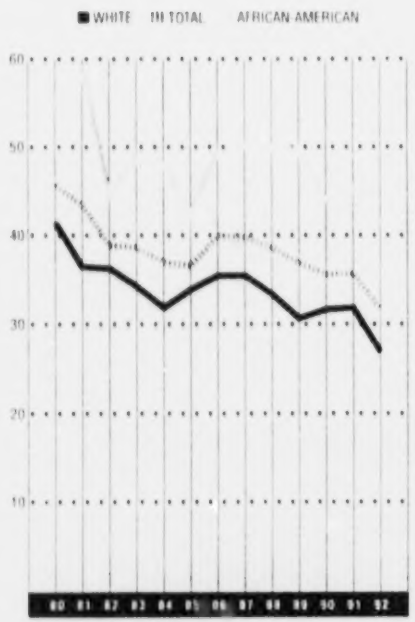
The child death rate reflects the health of children, the level of adult supervision they receive, and the dangers to which children are exposed in their homes and communities. Advances in the prevention and treatment of childhood illnesses during the past two decades means that injuries cause a large proportion of the deaths of young children.

Contributing Factors

- ***Environment*** Inadequate housing and lack of attention to child safety (such as use of car seats and bicycle helmets) may

Child Death Rate, Georgia, 1980–1992

Deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14



NUMBER, 1992.....441
RATE, 1992.....31.9

30.4
% CHANGE FROM 1980

11.1
% CHANGE FROM 1991

cause children to suffer and sometimes die. Unsafe playgrounds and other dangers (such as high levels of lead) threaten the health and safety of children in their neighborhoods. Guns and violence, whether in the home or community, also contribute to childhood injuries and death.

- ***Health Care*** Lack of health insurance and health care providers for children in low-income and rural areas may increase their risk of getting sick and dying. Limited preventive services (such as nutrition assistance, immunizations and health screenings) also put children at risk of illnesses from which they may die.

*Who Is At Risk?**

To understand why children are dying it is important to look at the causes of death.

- **The leading causes of death for young children are illness (47%) and motor vehicle crashes (24%).**
- **The rate of death due to illness for African-American children is 21 per 100,000, over 50% higher than the rate of 13.9 for white children.**
- **Homicide is the third leading cause of death (4.8 per 100,000) among African-American children after illness and motor vehicles.**
- **Drowning is the third leading cause of death (2.1 per 100,000) among white children after illness and motor vehicles.**

*Based on data for 1990–1992.

*Changes Since The 1980s**

- **The child death rate decreased 13.1%.**
- **Homicide accounted for 7.4% of all child deaths during the early 1990s, compared to 4.5% during the 1980s.**

*Measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1989 to the period 1990–1992.

SOURCE OF DATA

Data come from death certificate records maintained by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Office of Vital Statistics.

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Deaths of children ages 1 to 14, number and rate (per 100,000) for 1990-1992, and percent change* since 1980s

Counties with population greater than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	17	28	45	48.5	30.7
CHATHAM	16	22	38	27.8	-36.4
CHEROKEE	15	1	16	25.4	-30.9
CLARKE	6	7	13	30.8	-33.6
CLAYTON	19	7	28	23.3	-23.2
COBB	51	9	61	22.1	-26.5
DEKALB	29	63	95	31.2	-7.7
DOUGHERTY	6	18	24	35.7	-15.3
FLOYD	11	2	13	29.2	-31.2
FULTON	28	116	147	39.3	-9.0
GWINNETT	55	9	67	27.1	6.6
HALL	26	1	27	46.3	20.2
HOUSTON	9	7	16	26.7	-38.4
MUSCOGEE	18	13	31	27.0	-38.7
RICHMOND	30	25	55	44.9	-0.5
15 Large Counties	336	340	676	31.8	-15.2

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	0	2	2	NA	
ATKINSON	0	1	1	NA	
BACON	0	6	6	91.1	42.3
BAKER	0	2	2	NA	
BALDWIN	2	3	5	23.8	-44.1
BANKS	0	0	0	NA	
BARROW	4	2	6	29.8	7.6
BARTOW	12	2	14	37.8	6.4
BEN HILL	2	3	5	42.8	-14.7
BERRIEN	2	0	2	NA	
BLECKLEY	1	2	3	NA	
BRANTLEY	3	0	3	NA	
BROOKS	5	4	9	83.5	97.8
BRYAN	1	0	1	NA	
BULLOCH	8	4	12	51.1	10.9
BURKE	3	4	7	43.5	-5.0
BUTTS	3	1	4	NA	
CALHOUN	0	0	0	NA	
CAMDEN	2	2	4	NA	
CANDLER	0	1	1	NA	
CARROLL	17	3	20	44.2	21.5
CATOOSA	3	0	3	NA	
CHARLTON	2	0	3	NA	
CHATTAHOOCHEE	2	1	3	NA	
CHATTOOGA	3	3	6	46.0	12.7
CLAY	0	2	2	NA	
CLINCH	0	0	0	NA	
COFFEE	6	2	8	38.4	-31.4
COLQUITT	6	8	14	57.5	45.4
COLUMBIA	8	2	10	20.0	-24.2
COOK	0	0	0	NA	
COWETA	10	9	19	51.3	-9.5
CRAWFORD	0	0	0	NA	
CRISP	6	2	8	57.5	13.9
DADE	2	0	2	NA	
DAWSON	2	0	2	NA	
DECATUR	2	6	8	45.8	19.1
DODGE	0	2	2	NA	
DOOLY	1	0	1	NA	
DOUGLAS	15	1	16	33.3	26.1
EARLY	1	3	4	NA	
ECHOLS	1	0	1	NA	
EFFINGHAM	4	0	4	NA	
ELBERT	1	2	3	NA	
EMANUEL	1	5	6	40.3	18.4
EVANS	0	2	2	NA	
FANNIN	1	0	1	NA	
FAYETTE	8	2	10	22.1	-19.0
FORSYTH	18	0	18	65.8	50.1
FRANKLIN	2	0	2	NA	
GILMER	3	0	3	NA	
GLASCOCK	1	0	1	NA	
GLYNN	10	5	15	38.8	-3.7
GORDON	7	0	7	31.9	-35.2
GRADY	1	1	2	NA	
GREENE	2	3	5	57.7	82.2
HABERSHAM	3	0	3	NA	
HANCOCK	0	1	1	NA	
HARALSON	4	0	4	NA	
HARRIS	2	0	2	NA	
HART	1	1	2	NA	
HEARD	3	0	3	NA	
HENRY	9	0	9	22.6	-42.1
IRWIN	1	1	2	NA	
JACKSON	4	1	5	26.4	-49.2
JASPER	0	0	0	NA	
JEFF DAVIS	2	0	2	NA	
JEFFERSON	2	8	10	83.4	105.3
JENKINS	2	2	4	NA	
JOHNSON	0	5	5	86.8	246.2
JONES	2	1	3	NA	
LAMAR	2	2	4	NA	
LANIER	1	3	4	NA	
LAURENS	4	2	6	22.5	-32.1
LEE	1	2	3	NA	
LIBERTY	7	8	15	37.0	11.8
LINCOLN	2	0	2	NA	
LONG	0	3	3	NA	
LOWNDES	13	12	26	51.4	20.4
LUMPKIN	4	0	4	NA	
MACON	0	1	1	NA	
MADISON	4	0	4	NA	
MARION	1	2	3	NA	
MCDUFFIE	7	1	8	57.2	51.7
MCINTOSH	0	4	4	NA	
MERIWETHER	5	3	8	53.1	-6.2
MILLER	1	0	1	NA	
MITCHELL	2	3	5	33.8	-46.4
MONROE	0	1	1	NA	
MONTGOMERY	0	1	1	NA	
MORGAN	1	4	5	60.1	6.2
MURRAY	14	0	14	78.7	150.3
NEWTON	11	5	16	57.6	57.8
OCONEE	3	0	3	NA	
OGLETHORPE	3	0	3	NA	
PAULDING	12	0	12	40.8	19.9
PEACH	1	5	6	44.3	6.0
PICKENS	2	0	2	NA	
PIERCE	4	1	5	58.5	1.2
PIKE	2	0	2	NA	
POLK	9	0	9	43.6	2.8
PULASKI	1	2	3	NA	
PUTNAM	2	2	4	NA	
QUITMAN	0	0	0	NA	
RABUN	0	0	0	NA	
RANDOLPH	1	4	5	90.6	272.1
ROCKDALE	8	1	9	24.4	-24.3
SCHLEY	1	0	1	NA	
SCREVEN	2	0	2	NA	
SEMINOLE	1	2	3	NA	
SPALDING	6	6	12	33.6	-16.6
STEPHENS	3	0	3	NA	
STEWART	0	0	0	NA	
SUMTER	4	6	10	48.8	20.9
TALBOT	0	1	1	NA	
TALIAFERRO	0	2	2	NA	
TATTNALL	3	4	7	70.1	57.0
TAYLOR	2	0	2	NA	
TELFAIR	1	1	2	NA	
TERRELL	2	5	7	94.8	31.7
THOMAS	2	7	9	34.2	-31.0
TIFT	3	10	13	55.2	61.0
TOOMBS	6	1	7	42.0	29.8
TOWNS	1	0	1	NA	
TREUTLEN	0	0	0	NA	
TROUP	10	7	17	46.4	4.6
TURNER	0	3	3	NA	
TWIGGS	1	0	1	NA	
UNION	5	0	5	79.2	45.1
UPSON	6	0	6	38.7	60.8
WALKER	12	0	12	34.3	10.5
WALTON	7	1	8	31.3	-45.0
WARE	1	6	7	32.4	-42.6
WARREN	0	1	1	NA	
WASHINGTON	2	6	8	60.1	33.9
WAYNE	4	0	4	NA	
WEBSTER	0	2	2	NA	
WHEELER	1	0	1	NA	
WHITE	0	0	0	NA	
WHITFIELD	13	1	14	32.0	-26.2
WILCOX	1	0	1	NA	
WILKES	2	3	5	75.3	32.7
WILKINSON	1	6	7	98.3	204.0
WORTH	2	3	5	35.8	-3.7
144 Small Counties	462	279	743	37.4	-10.9
GEORGIA	798	687	1819	34.5	-13.1

*Percent change measures the change in rates from the period 1980-1989 to the period 1990-1992. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.
NA: Number too small to calculate a rate.

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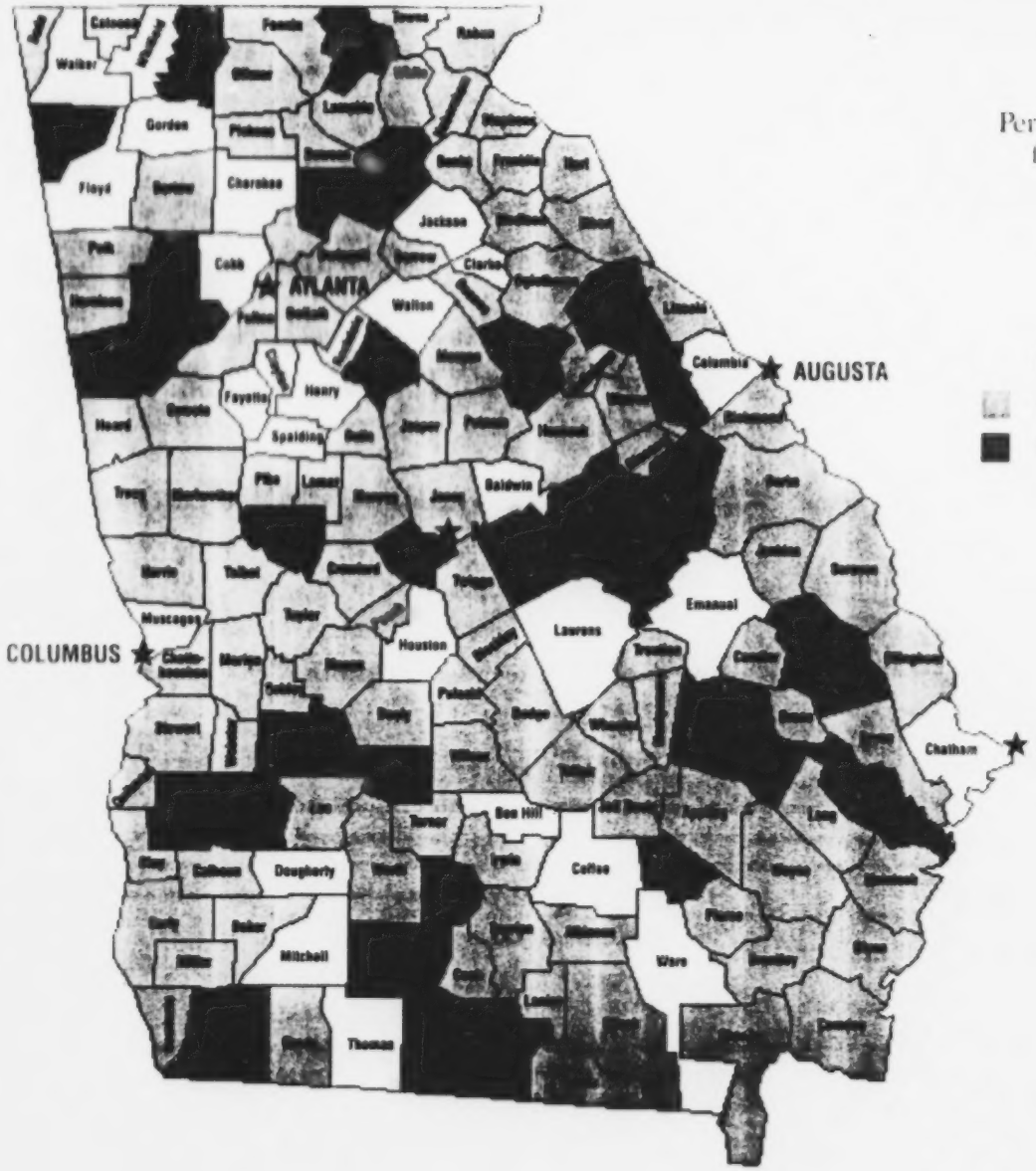

Child Deaths

Percent change in child death rates
from 1980-1989 to 1990-1992

Decreased more than 10%

Changed less than 10%

Increased more than 10%

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"Adolescence is a natural period of experimentation and risk taking, but some young people—whether poor, middle class, or rich—appear far more likely to adopt 'risky life-styles.'"

—National Research Council Panel on High Risk Youth

GEORGIA'S
1994
NATIONAL
RANK

35

Definition

The teen violent death rate is the number of deaths from causes other than illness—largely homicide, suicide or motor vehicle crashes—among teens ages 15 to 19 per 100,000.

Significance

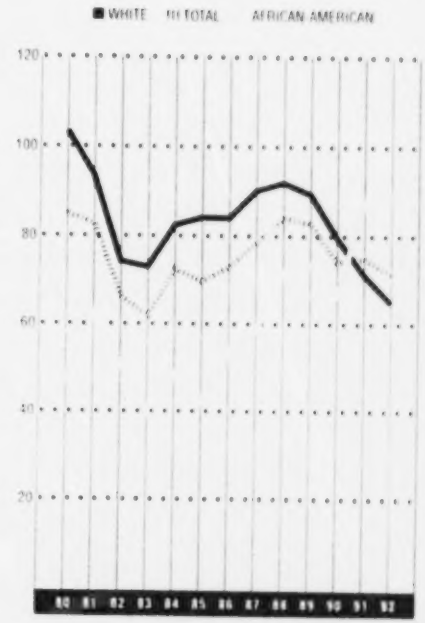
Most young people face increased risks to their health and safety during the teenage years. The teen violent death rate indicates the need for action and support from families and community organizations to minimize these risks and to build upon protective factors which reduce their negative impact.

Contributing Factors

Research suggests that while most teens experiment and take some risks, the presence

Teen Violent Death Rate, Georgia, 1980–1992

Deaths per 100,000 youth ages 15-19



NUMBER, 1992 ... 834
RATE, 1992 ... 72.0

15.9

% CHANGE FROM 1980

4.7

% CHANGE FROM 1991

of positive factors in effect protect adolescents from many of the potentially damaging consequences of their behavior. These protective factors are assets found within individuals, families and communities which need to be nurtured and supported.

- ***Individual*** Adolescent feelings of immortality, anger and the desire to rebel can lead to potentially life threatening behavior among teens. Teens possessing a positive self-image are more likely to show resilience.
- ***Family*** Poor communication and nurturing in families, and the use of alcohol and drugs can contribute to high risk behavior among teens. Teens who feel connected to their family can better respond to stress and dangers that may lead to adverse outcomes.
- ***Community*** Access to guns, alcohol and drugs can be deadly for teens. Teens who live in communities where the quality of education is poor or few employment opportunities exist are more likely to engage in risky behavior. School, work, volunteer and religious organizations offer teens the chance to gain a sense of belonging, to have relationships with adults outside their immediate family and to learn about some options for the future.

*Who Is At Risk?**

The rate of teen violent deaths vary by cause of death and by a teen's race and sex.

- **The leading cause is motor vehicle crashes totalling 40.6% of all teen violent deaths.**
- **African-American teens die as result of homicide at a rate of 38.1 per 100,000, more than seven times the rate of 5.2 for white teens.**
- **White teens die as a result of motor vehicle crashes at a rate of 46.1 per 100,000, more than twice the rate of 22.2 for African-American teens.**

*Based on data for 1990–1992

*Changes Since The 1980s**

- **The teen violent death rate decreased 2.7%.**
- **African-American males died as a result of homicide at a rate of 65.4 per 100,000 during the early part of the 1990s, a 118.8% increase.**
- **White males died as a result of motor vehicle crashes at a rate of 59.9 per 100,000 during the early part of the 1990s, a 23.3% decrease.**

*Measures the change in rates from 1980–1989 to the period 1990–1992

SOURCE OF DATA

Data come from death certificate records maintained by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Office of Vital Statistics

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Violent deaths of teens ages 15 to 19, number and rate (per 100,000) for 1990–1992, and percent change* since 1980s

Counties with population greater than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	19	16	35	101.8	43.0
CHATHAM	14	17	32	70.9	8.8
CHEROKEE	11	0	11	58.4	-43.9
CLARKE	5	5	10	34.2	8.4
CLAYTON	12	8	21	50.0	-34.4
COBB	53	6	59	66.4	9.1
DEKALB	19	18	68	61.2	0.0
DOUGHERTY	11	9	20	75.6	27.4
FLOYD	12	6	18	95.2	32.5
FULTON	16	93	110	80.1	9.0
GWINNETT	47	6	53	73.0	5.3
HALL	20	2	22	102.0	9.5
HOUSTON	12	2	14	72.7	11.8
MUSCOGEE	22	13	35	81.7	54.1
RICHMOND	15	16	31	67.7	41.2
15 Large Counties	288	217	539	71.4	6.8

Counties with population less than 80,000

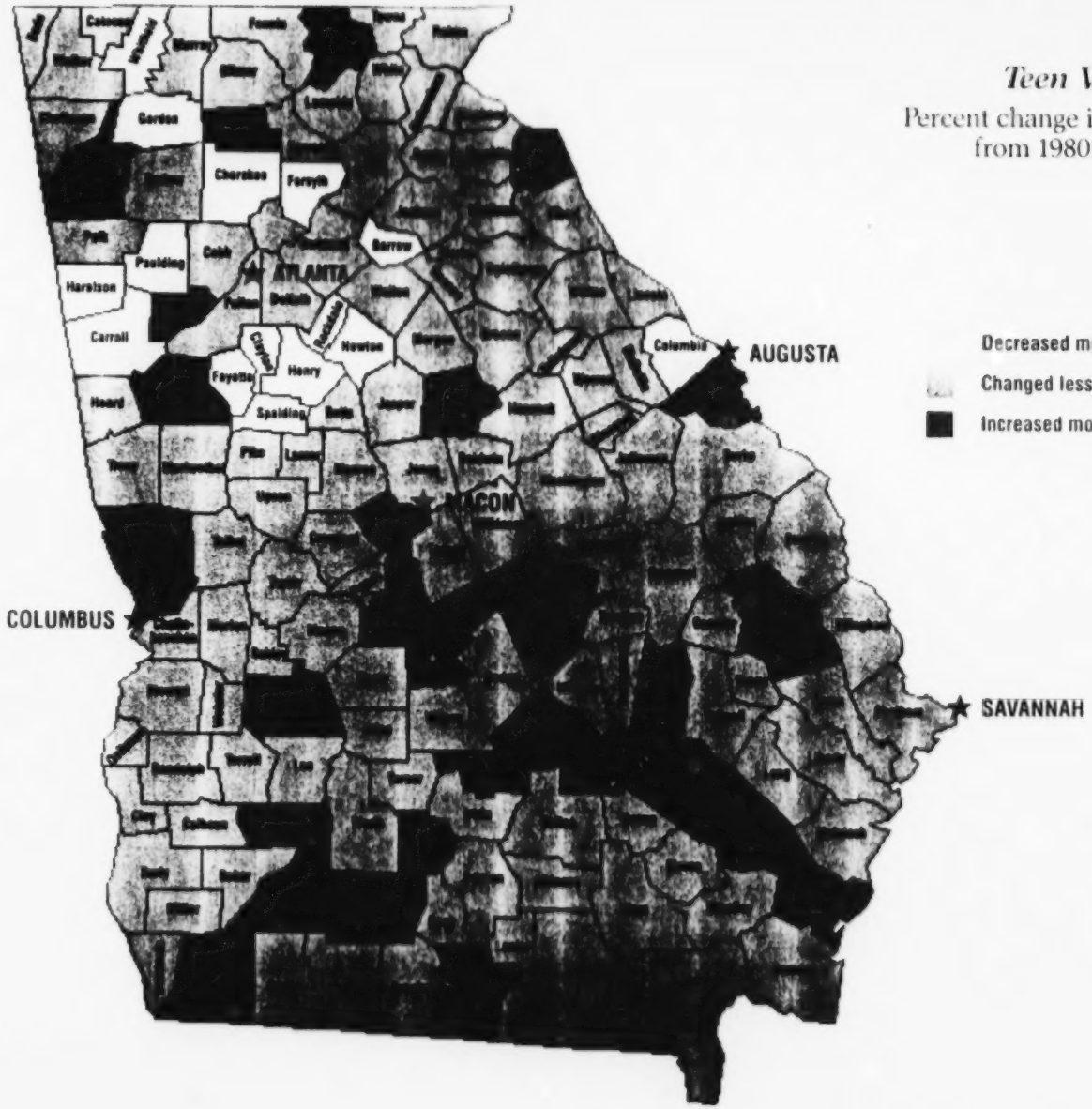
COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	4	2	6	141.9	59.9
ATKINSON	1	2	3	NA	
BACON	0	1	1	NA	
BAKER	0	1	1	NA	
BALDWIN	6	1	7	74.9	-0.9
BANKS	1	0	1	NA	
BARROW	3	4	7	108.1	-17.1
BARTOW	4	0	4	NA	
BEN HILL	5	1	6	150.7	44.5
BERRIEN	2	0	2	NA	
BLECKLEY	5	0	5	179.5	180.7
BRANTLEY	4	0	4	NA	
BROOKS	1	3	4	NA	
BRYAN	1	1	2	NA	
BULLOCH	7	3	10	55.6	40.5
BURKE	1	3	4	NA	
BUTTS	1	1	2	NA	
CALHOUN	1	2	3	NA	
CAMDEN	4	3	7	101.4	-5.9
CANDLER	2	1	3	NA	
CARROLL	8	1	9	45.8	-33.2
CATOOSA	3	0	3	NA	
CHARLTON	2	0	2	NA	
CHATTAHOOCHEE	0	1	1	NA	
CHATTOOGA	2	2	4	NA	
CLAY	0	0	0	NA	
CLINCH	2	0	2	NA	
COFFEE	3	1	4	NA	
COLQUITT	4	5	9	104.0	18.1
COLUMBIA	5	1	6	18.7	-58.5
COOK	1	1	2	NA	
COWETA	11	6	17	140.5	28.1
CRAWFORD	1	2	3	NA	
CRISP	2	0	2	NA	
DADE	2	0	2	NA	

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
DAWSON	2	0	2	NA	
DECATUR	4	2	6	90.2	109.7
DODGE	0	1	1	NA	
DOOLY	1	2	3	NA	
DOUGLAS	16	0	16	95.1	31.5
EARLY	3	0	3	NA	
ECHOLS	0	0	0	NA	
EFFINGHAM	3	0	3	NA	
ELBERT	2	0	2	NA	
EMANUEL	4	0	4	NA	
EVANS	2	0	2	NA	
FANNIN	2	0	2	NA	
FAYETTE	8	1	9	58.3	-14.8
FORSYTH	9	0	9	93.9	-33.1
FRANKLIN	2	1	3	NA	
GILMER	2	0	2	NA	
GLASCOCK	0	0	0	NA	
GLYNN	10	4	14	104.2	71.1
GORDON	6	1	7	81.1	-15.9
GRADY	4	0	4	NA	
GREENE	1	1	2	NA	
HABERSHAM	4	0	4	NA	
HANCOCK	1	2	3	NA	
HARALSON	4	1	5	101.8	-29.2
HARRIS	3	3	6	150.7	64.1
HART	3	4	7	164.8	70.9
HEARD	0	2	2	NA	
HENRY	7	1	9	72.0	-35.5
IRWIN	2	2	4	NA	
JACKSON	8	1	9	141.1	6.9
JASPER	0	1	1	NA	
JEFF DAVIS	8	0	8	265.3	161.1
JEFFERSON	1	1	2	NA	
JENKINS	0	1	1	NA	
JOHNSON	1	1	2	NA	
JONES	1	2	3	NA	
LAMAR	3	0	3	NA	
LANIER	1	0	1	NA	
LAURENS	5	3	8	91.3	10.4
LEE	0	2	2	NA	
LIBERTY	4	3	7	54.7	3.5
LINCOLN	2	0	2	NA	
LONG	0	0	0	NA	
LOWNDES	7	5	12	60.2	27.1
LUMPKIN	1	0	1	NA	
MACON	3	0	3	NA	
MADISON	5	0	5	105.6	4.8
MARION	0	0	0	NA	
MCDUFFIE	5	0	5	109.1	-9.9
MCINTOSH	3	1	4	NA	
MERIWETHER	0	2	2	NA	
MILLER	1	0	1	NA	
MITCHELL	5	3	8	145.0	56.9
MONROE	0	2	2	NA	
MONTGOMERY	0	0	0	NA	
MORGAN	2	1	3	NA	

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
MURRAY	4	0	4	NA	
NEWTON	8	1	9	87.1	-13.6
OCONEE	2	0	2	NA	
OGLETHORPE	1	0	1	NA	
PAULDING	6	0	6	64.0	-37.4
PEACH	3	1	4	NA	
PICKENS	5	0	5	161.5	20.0
PIERCE	1	0	1	NA	
PIKE	2	0	2	NA	
POLK	7	0	7	89.3	1.8
PULASKI	4	1	5	276.5	129.7
PUTNAM	4	1	5	168.2	69.9
QUITMAN	0	0	0	NA	
RABUN	4	0	4	NA	
RANDOLPH	0	0	0	NA	
ROCKDALE	7	0	7	54.2	44.4
SCHLEY	0	0	0	NA	
SCREVEN	0	1	1	NA	
SEMINOLE	1	0	1	NA	
SPALDING	5	2	7	54.0	-38.2
STEPHENS	1	2	3	NA	
STEWART	1	0	1	NA	
SUMTER	5	4	9	117.3	98.9
TALBOT	0	0	0	NA	
TALIAFERRO	0	0	0	NA	
TATTNALL	2	0	2	NA	
TAYLOR	1	0	1	NA	
TELFAIR	5	1	6	251.4	56.6
TERRELL	1	0	1	NA	
THOMAS	3	1	4	NA	
TIFT	7	4	11	118.5	60.0
TOOMBS	3	2	5	89.5	41.9
TOWNS	1	0	1	NA	
TREUTLEN	0	1	1	NA	
TROUP	7	5	13	98.8	-3.9
TURNER	0	1	1	NA	
TWIGGS	1	0	1	NA	
UNION	6	0	6	247.4	102.6
UPSON	1	1	2	NA	
WALKER	7	0	7	54.5	-1.3
WALTON	3	1	4	NA	
WARE	2	0	2	NA	
WARREN	0	0	0	NA	
WASHINGTON	2	0	2	NA	
WAYNE	5	1	6	114.5	140.7
WEBSTER	0	0	0	NA	
WHEELER	0	0	0	NA	
WHITE	4	0	4	NA	
WHITFIELD	10	1	11	63.8	-11.8
WILCOX	0	0	0	NA	
WILKES	1	1	2	NA	
WILKINSON	2	1	3	NA	
WORTH	1	0	1	NA	
144 Small Counties	417	139	558	76.8	10.5
GEORGIA	705	386	1097	74.1	2.7

*Percent change measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1982 to the period 1990–1992. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.

NA: Number too small to calculate a rate.



Teen Violent Deaths

Percent change in teen violent death rates from 1980-1989 to 1990-1992

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"For healthy development, children need a safe and nurturing family environment. This measure suggests the extent to which children's security is threatened rather than protected by the adults on whom they are most dependent."

—Improved Outcomes for Children Project

Definition

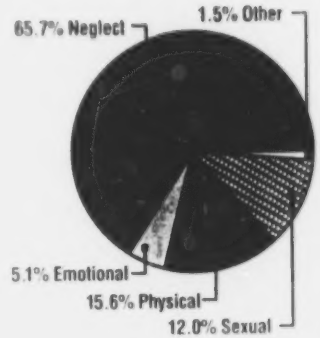
The child abuse and neglect rate is the number of confirmed incidents of child abuse and neglect for every 1,000 children under age 18.

Significance

Child abuse and neglect can result in physical and mental health problems in children and families that include, but are not limited to, mental and behavioral disorders, delayed development, permanent disability, poor academic performance, delinquency, depression, alcoholism, substance abuse, deviant sexual behavior, suicide, teen pregnancy, and domestic and criminal violence.

There are enormous economic consequences of child abuse and neglect. These include the costs of foster

Confirmed Abuse And Neglect Incidents, Georgia, 1993



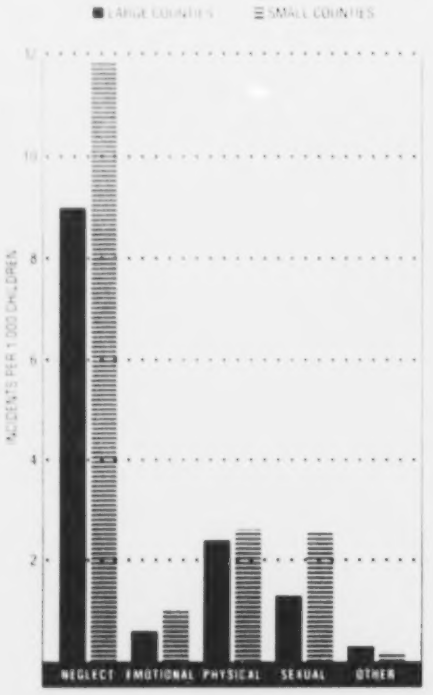
care, court services, counseling, specialized education and medical care.

Contributing Factors

Although single factors have been suggested to be associated with child abuse and neglect, they have not been established as reliable causes. Instead, research has shown that there is a complex, layered effect between individual family, environmental and cultural factors that predicts the likelihood of abuse or neglect.

- ***Community and Home Environment*** Inadequate education, lack of social supports and unemployment contribute to stress in the home and can lead to child abuse and neglect.
- ***Family*** Child abuse and neglect often occur as a result of substance abuse, poor impulse control, depression and anxiety among parents.

Rate Of Child Abuse And Neglect Incidents For Large And Small Counties, 1993



Changes Since 1992

27,767 incidents of abuse or neglect were confirmed during 1993, a rate of 15.9 per 1,000 children under age 18. This represents a slight increase from 15.3 in 1992.

SOURCE OF DATA

Data come from the Child Abuse Central Registry maintained by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Family and Children Services. In order to classify an incident as "confirmed," there must be substantial, credible evidence that maltreatment has occurred. Because some aspects of the confirmation process are subjective in nature, rates may vary greatly among communities. Factors affecting confirmation may include training and experience of the caseworkers and law enforcement personnel, caseload size and quality of supervision.

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Confirmed Incidents of child abuse and neglect, number and rate (per 1,000) for 1993

Counties with population greater than 80,000

COUNTY	ABUSE Physical	ABUSE Sexual	ABUSE Other	NEGLECT	TOTAL	RATE
BIBB	80	57	64	444	645	16.7
CHATHAM	146	64	49	428	687	12.2
CHEROKEE	53	86	71	243	453	16.2
CLARKE	76	58	43	312	490	27.2
CLAYTON	128	87	64	465	744	14.5
COBB	241	81	64	545	931	7.7
DEKALB	395	119	62	592	1,068	8.3
DOUGHERTY	40	39	24	178	281	10.1
FLOYD	58	48	35	222	363	19.5
FULTON	417	192	187	2,778	3,574	22.8
GWINNETT	123	47	42	188	400	3.6
HALL	88	64	47	248	447	17.8
HOUSTON	87	84	20	198	389	15.4
MUSCOGEE	144	97	43	902	1,226	25.6
RICHMOND	106	41	22	410	579	11.3
15 Large Counties	2,338	1,199	837	8,151	12,783	13.6

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	ABUSE Physical	ABUSE Sexual	ABUSE Other	NEGLECT	TOTAL	RATE
APPLING	21	12	4	51	88	20.2
ATKINSON	9	9	2	34	50	28.0
BACON	6	16	4	53	79	28.6
BAKER	0	1	0	23	26	25.5
BALDWIN	23	8	3	116	145	16.1
BANKS	12	11	3	35	64	23.0
BARROW	32	36	31	79	178	20.2
BARTOW	50	41	5	124	203	12.6
BEN HILL	6	11	4	23	47	9.4
BERRIEN	16	22	5	104	149	38.9
BERKELEY	8	8	1	38	51	19.2
BRANTLEY	3	1	1	10	15	13.3
BROOKS	13	3	9	140	166	37.5
BRYAN	8	10	6	69	113	20.8
BULLOCH	19	18	11	145	223	22.7
BURKE	12	12	5	79	108	15.8
BUTTS	9	6	4	33	52	13.3
CALHOUN	3	3	3	6	20	15.1
CAMDEN	23	21	12	155	211	20.0
CANDLER	8	7	2	23	41	19.9
CARROLL	57	63	23	239	382	19.3
CATOOSA	6	24	9	70	109	11.8
CHARLTON	9	19	8	40	74	30
CHATTAHOOCHEE	18	6	3	18	45	10.2
CHATTOOGA	19	9	6	115	149	27.2
CLAY	1	3	3	15	22	23.3
CLINCH	6	5	4	29	44	25.9
COFFEE	29	31	18	122	209	23.5
COLQUITT	53	33	25	198	309	29.7
COLUMBIA	26	28	3	44	100	4.5
COOK	19	19	19	84	141	38.5
COWETA	58	48	20	282	380	23.4
CRAWFORD	3	3	2	21	29	11.5
CRISP	29	26	23	183	252	42.9
DADE	2	1	0	11	14	5.5

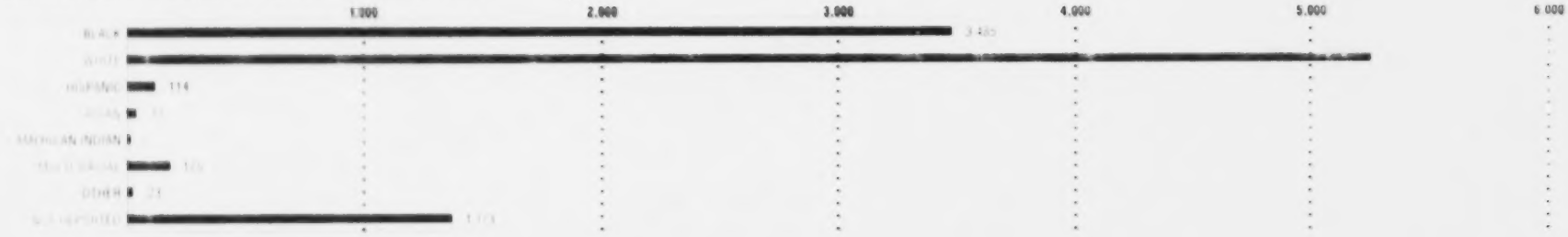
COUNTY	ABUSE Physical	ABUSE Sexual	ABUSE Other	NEGLECT	TOTAL	RATE
DAWSON	11	9	0	46	66	22.2
DECATUR	24	28	17	126	195	26.6
DODGE	13	10	1	59	83	19.2
DOOLY	14	5	8	87	114	41.1
DOUGLAS	24	17	5	86	132	6.4
EARLY	3	2	1	27	33	10.1
ECHOLS	1	4	5	17	27	40.5
EFFINGHAM	10	33	7	90	140	16.5
ELBERT	5	9	0	16	30	6.1
EMANUEL	10	14	4	31	59	9.7
EVANS	12	11	12	109	144	57.7
FANNIN	11	8	2	65	86	23.6
FAYETTE	25	16	9	34	84	4.0
FORSYTH	43	41	7	114	205	16.9
FRANKLIN	23	19	16	67	125	32.4
GILMER	17	16	2	17	52	15.2
GLASCOCK	2	1	0	4	7	13.3
GLYNN	36	15	18	232	301	18.5
GORDON	23	28	2	56	109	11.5
GRADY	21	43	2	45	111	20.2
GREENE	6	4	5	89	104	29.0
HABERSHAM	23	25	7	66	121	18.7
HANCOCK	4	0	5	31	40	15.3
HARALSON	28	18	16	87	149	25.2
HARRIS	11	15	5	45	76	16.9
HART	15	8	9	147	179	38.4
HEARD	12	27	14	46	99	38.4
HENRY	42	46	21	126	235	13.3
IRWIN	9	23	2	59	93	39.5
JACKSON	12	22	9	53	96	11.9
JASPER	11	10	3	33	57	23.7
JEFF DAVIS	12	9	5	85	111	34.1
JEFFERSON	4	8	4	93	109	21.9
JENKINS	9	4	4	55	72	31.1
JOHNSON	6	5	1	22	34	14.4
JONES	13	6	5	50	74	12.5
LAMAR	11	10	3	17	41	12.2
LANIER	11	9	5	34	59	38.9
LAURENS	47	50	12	129	238	21.3
LEE	2	9	3	9	23	4.1
LIBERTY	92	77	33	257	459	26.3
LINCOLN	5	4	9	20	38	19.4
LONG	8	15	6	102	131	65.7
LOWNDES	74	57	37	412	580	27.3
LUMPKIN	5	11	1	23	40	10.7
MACON	13	19	18	135	185	46.6
MADISON	12	23	10	36	81	14.3
MARION	0	1	0	6	7	4.5
MCDUFFIE	10	5	7	84	106	18.0
MCINTOSH	11	6	7	26	50	21.4
MERIWETHER	6	9	2	40	57	8.9
MILLER	4	0	1	11	16	10.2
MITCHELL	4	7	5	77	93	15.3
MONROE	7	14	5	43	70	14.8
MONTGOMERY	8	4	0	18	30	16.6
MORGAN	9	5	5	39	58	16.7

COUNTY	ABUSE Physical	ABUSE Sexual	ABUSE Other	NEGLECT	TOTAL	RATE
MURRAY	26	19	12	53	110	14.3
NEWTON	38	37	8	204	287	24.3
OCONEE	11	2	21	29	63	11.6
OGLETHORPE	11	10	15	30	66	26.8
PAULDING	64	28	15	116	223	16.9
PEACH	10	7	4	47	68	12.0
PICKENS	16	18	4	42	80	21.6
PIERCE	10	14	12	66	102	27.6
PIKE	5	9	0	56	70	25.1
POLK	18	16	2	75	111	12.7
PULASKI	25	8	0	45	78	38.9
PUTNAM	5	9	4	45	63	16.6
QUITMAN	0	1	0	0	1	NA
RABUN	3	9	1	32	45	18.0
RANDOLPH	5	5	4	30	44	20.3
ROCKDALE	27	14	4	168	213	13.1
SCHLEY	10	0	0	20	30	31.3
SCREVEN	11	7	7	54	79	20.0
SEMINOLE	7	6	0	9	22	9.9
SPALDING	47	78	18	361	504	32.6
STEPHENS	13	13	4	55	85	15.6
STEWART	0	0	0	1	1	NA
SUMTER	13	17	2	74	106	12.1
TALBOT	3	2	8	28	41	24.9
TALIAFERRO	1	2	0	4	7	13.6
TATTNALL	10	23	6	120	159	39.4
TAYLOR	6	3	1	22	32	15.7
TELFAIR	8	8	4	19	39	11.4
TERRELL	6	3	4	60	73	25.2
THOMAS	6	1	4	52	65	6.0
TIFT	22	24	9	111	166	16.7
TOOMBS	7	20	3	150	180	25.7
TOWNS	7	0	2	18	27	23.4
TREUTLEN	2	8	6	20	36	22.3
TROUP	27	19	9	159	214	13.6
TURNER	6	23	0	29	58	22.7
TWIGGS	10	4	1	24	39	13.3
UNION	6	4	3	32	47	17.5
UPSON	23	19	20	41	103	15.9
WALKER	29	10	5	59	103	7.1
WALTON	45	21	11	71	148	13.6
WARE	15	28	16	153	212	23.9
WARREN	0	2	1	0	3	NA
WASHINGTON	25	16	2	46	89	16.2
WAYNE	14	28	9	34	85	13.2
WEBSTER	0	0	1	1	2	NA
WHEELER	6	1	0	27	34	25.8
WHITE	6	8	4	19	37	12.1
WHITFIELD	60	33	14	225	332	18.0
WILCOX	6	0	0	88	94	19.9
WILKES	6	2	1	13	22	8.2
WILKINSON	12	10	0	20	42	14.6
WORTH	21	24	1	50	96	16.0
144 Small Counties	2,202	2,181	1,001	10,095	15,484	18.3
GEORGIA	4,340	3,380	1,838	18,248	27,767	15.9

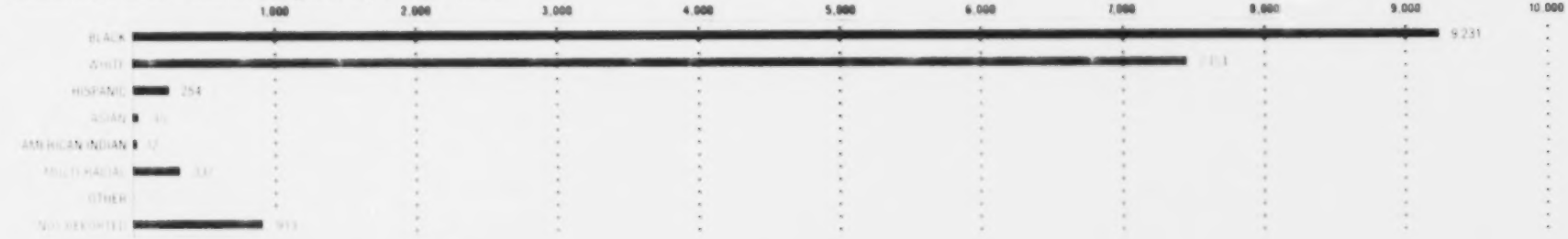
NA: Number too small to calculate a rate

ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN

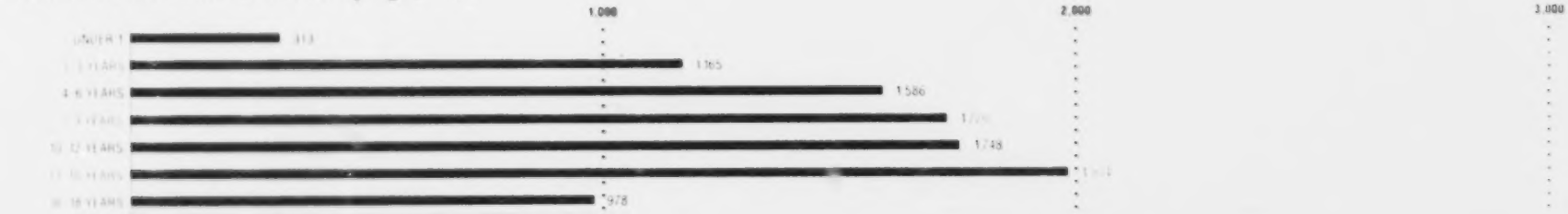
Confirmed Incidents Of Abuse By Race, 1993



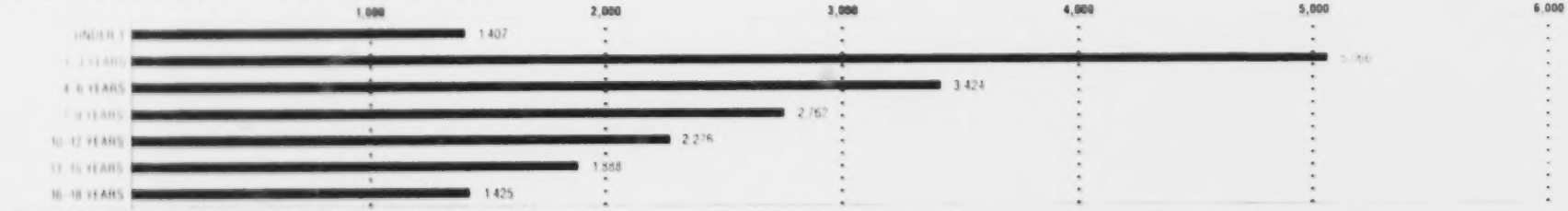
Confirmed Incidents Of Neglect By Race, 1993



Confirmed Incidents Of Abuse By Age, 1993



Confirmed Incidents Of Neglect By Age, 1993



Source: Child Abuse Central Registry, 1993, Georgia Department of Human Resources

Although many teenage parents eventually regain some of their initial disadvantage in school, employment and income, they seldom reach the level of their peers who delay childbearing.

The Alan Guttmacher Institute

Definition

The teen birth rate is the number of births to girls under age 18 for every 1,000 girls ages 15–17. The numerator includes the number of births to all girls under age 18, however the denominator used in determining the rate only includes girls ages 15–17 since there are relatively few births to girls under age 15.

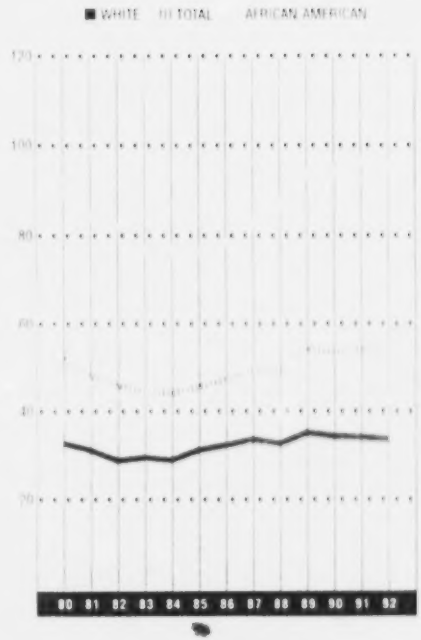
Significance

Babies born to teen mothers are more likely than other infants to suffer health, economic, social and educational problems during childhood. These range from low birthweight and school failure to poverty and future likelihood of becoming an adolescent parent.

Teen mothers often experience such problems as poor health and nutrition,

Teen Birth Rate, Georgia, 1980–1992

Births to girls under 18 per 1,000 girls ages 15–17



NUMBER, 1992 7191
RATE, 1992 ..... 54.8

2.0
CHANGE FROM 1980

1.6
CHANGE FROM 1991

unemployment and poverty at higher rates than women who delay parenthood.

Contributing Factors

The risk factors and protective factors associated with teen pregnancy and childbearing can be grouped into three areas: individual, family and community.

- ***Community*** Teens are more likely to have babies if their community accepts childbearing at a young age or if their friends have infants. Teens who live in poor neighborhoods, with few examples of self-sufficiency or economic productivity among its residents, are at greater risk of becoming parents. These risk factors can be offset by involvement in community organizations which can give teens a sense of belonging and opportunity to develop relationships with adults.
- ***Individual*** Adolescents who feel hopeless about the future, are performing poorly in school, or have unmet emotional needs often see child bearing as the answer to their problems. Girls who have been sexually abused as children are more likely to bear children during their adolescent years. Boys who equate paternity with masculinity are more likely to father children. Teens with a positive self-image are more likely to show resilience.
- ***Family*** Teens who were born to adolescent parents are more likely to begin their own family before reaching adulthood. While poor communication and inadequate nurturing in families can contribute to teen sexual activity and early childbearing, feeling connected to one's family often acts as a protective factor.

Who Is At Risk?

- **African-American teens have a birth rate of 95.1 per 1,000, almost three times the rate of 34.1 for white teens.***
- **The teen birth rate in the small counties is 55.3 per 1,000, 4.2% higher than the rate of 52.9 in the large counties.†**

*Based on data from 1992.
†Based on data for 1990–1992.

*Changes Since The 1980s**

- **The teen birth rate increased 11.4%.**
- **Among African-American teens the birth rate increased 14.3%.**
- **For white teens the birth rate increased 7.7%.**
- **The increase is highest in the large counties at 19.1%, as compared to 4.7% in the small counties.**

*Measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1989 to the period 1990–1992.

SOURCE OF DATA

Data come from birth certificate records maintained by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Office of Vital Statistics.

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Births to girls younger than age 18, number and rate (per 1,000) for 1990–1992, and percent change* since 1980s

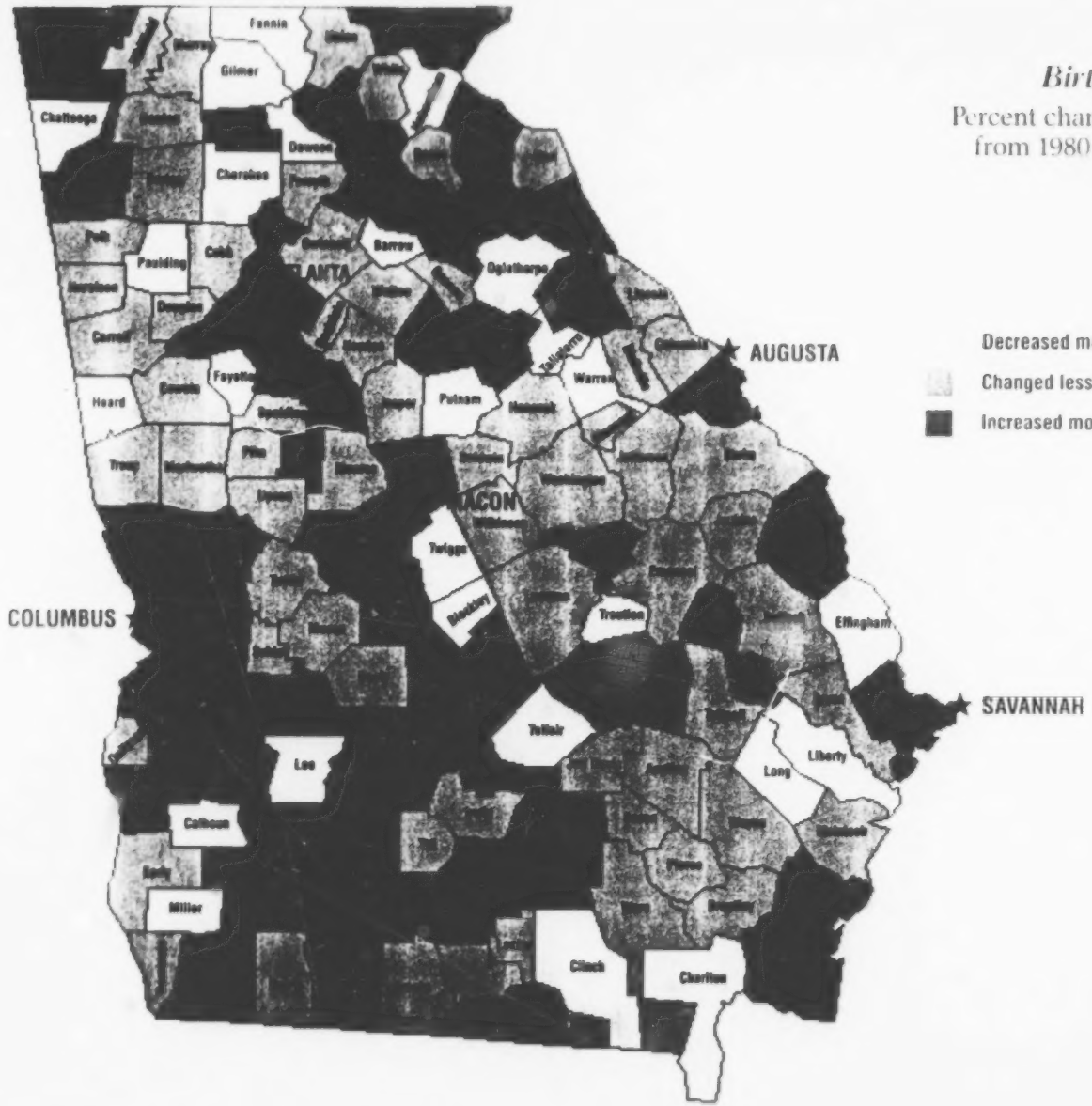
Counties with population greater than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	149	514	663	68.5	18.5
CHATHAM	227	652	882	72.2	23.6
CHEROKEE	154	4	159	29.7	-25.1
CLARKE	47	175	223	56.7	20.1
CLAYTON	267	183	463	38.3	14.9
COBB	454	164	622	23.9	1.4
DEKALB	701	1,290	1,426	47.8	42.2
DOUGHERTY	96	472	569	76.8	20.2
FLOYD	127	189	317	67.6	37.9
FULTON	262	2,515	2,790	78.8	31.0
GWINNETT	340	47	394	17.9	-9.6
HALL	242	61	304	53.6	15.3
HOUSTON	114	125	239	41.4	20.3
MUSCOGEE	228	594	825	76.2	33.9
RICHMOND	228	607	835	73.2	26.2
15 Large Counties	3,186	7,552	10,711	52.9	19.1

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	45	12	78	61.2	5.4
ATKINSON	27	14	41	94.9	39.1
BACON	27	27	54	70.1	2.7
BAKER	5	10	15	54.3	20.5
BALDWIN	29	85	114	57.0	1.8
BANKS	19	5	24	36.3	-0.9
BARROW	54	29	83	43.7	19.5
BARTOW	198	81	279	62.6	3.3
BEN HILL	45	74	119	90.4	38.8
BERRIEN	37	27	64	72.8	81.3
BLECKLEY	11	17	28	39.9	-23.8
BRANTLEY	35	7	42	44.2	3.9
BROOKS	21	59	80	72.3	4.2
BRYAN	31	31	62	51.6	8.6
BULLOCH	39	82	121	53.4	8.1
BURKE	23	80	103	67.5	-5.5
BUTTS	26	35	61	67.6	13.6
CALHOUN	3	11	14	41.8	11.0
CAMDEN	34	53	87	44.3	12.8
CANDLER	14	22	36	64.3	38.2
CARROLL	172	85	257	52.7	6.2
CATOOSA	127	3	129	45.2	31.3
CHARLTON	15	17	32	54.5	26.5
CHATTAHOOCHEE	11	20	31	39.3	22.4
CHATTOOGA	49	7	56	37.4	-23.1
CLAY	1	19	20	90.2	23.4
CLINCH	13	18	31	60.2	23.9
COFFEE	87	86	173	78.8	-9.5
COLQUITT	83	117	201	83.1	36.0
COLUMBIA	101	19	121	25.6	8.1
COOK	39	39	78	83.9	22.2
COWETA	155	114	274	58.4	3.0
CRAWFORD	16	12	28	42.5	35.7
CRISP	28	124	152	100.8	30.5
DADE	36	0	36	43.1	11.9
DAWSON	19	0	19	29.8	-37.4
DECATUR	32	113	145	75.0	14.1
DODGE	28	44	72	59.4	30.0
DOOLY	11	41	52	75.5	1.4
DOUGLAS	152	32	185	38.1	1.7
EARLY	13	51	64	71.6	-1.9
ECHOLS	8	0	8	58.7	181.5
EFFINGHAM	39	15	54	28.6	-13.6
ELBERT	39	52	91	87.4	27.8
EMANUEL	47	55	102	69.0	-4.9
EVANS	11	31	42	77.6	31.8
FANNIN	28	0	28	28.9	-17.9
FAYETTE	34	3	38	8.0	-33.1
FORSYTH	88	1	90	31.8	-5.6
FRANKLIN	59	14	73	67.8	17.8
GILMER	39	0	39	44.6	-19.1
GLASCOCK	2	3	5	41.0	5.9
GLYNN	109	114	223	58.7	16.3
GORDON	131	9	140	55.9	6.0
GRADY	31	59	90	60.2	3.4
GREENE	8	54	62	67.8	17.3
HABERSHAM	53	3	56	34.7	-11.6
HANCOCK	2	26	28	39.1	-5.9
HARALSON	57	7	64	43.5	0.4
HARRIS	31	29	60	53.0	67.3
HART	30	29	59	47.2	-5.0
HEARD	16	1	17	24.1	-39.2
HENRY	104	41	145	38.3	11.1
IRWIN	5	24	29	54.0	-3.1
JACKSON	101	20	121	66.0	38.0
JASPER	12	18	30	52.1	9.7
JEFF DAVIS	33	7	40	49.1	-3.5
JEFFERSON	20	75	95	70.1	-1.0
JENKINS	11	33	44	74.0	1.9
JOHNSON	14	35	49	78.6	32.6
JONES	42	16	58	42.1	13.4
LAMAR	27	43	70	78.6	58.1
LANIER	8	15	23	58.0	9.9
LAURENS	63	93	156	59.4	7.1
LEE	25	15	40	30.0	27.5
LIBERTY	69	89	163	63.2	-11.5
LINCOLN	8	20	28	54.2	4.4
LONG	14	8	22	48.1	-15.9
LOWNDES	82	219	302	60.9	8.2
LUMPKIN	51	0	51	59.0	67.0
MACON	8	56	64	61.9	9.6
MADISON	64	8	72	54.5	16.8
MARION	7	12	19	59.2	17.5
MCDUFFIE	12	85	97	69.4	7.0
MCINTOSH	15	18	33	46.3	6.7
MERIWETHER	25	60	85	51.1	1.6
MILLER	7	7	14	35.4	38.6
MITCHELL	25	107	132	82.4	12.1
MONROE	30	19	49	41.7	2.0
MONTGOMERY	14	12	26	53.3	57.7
MORGAN	14	40	54	63.1	53.3
MURRAY	109	0	109	58.7	0.9
NEWTON	98	84	182	62.4	-8.4
OCONEE	23	7	30	25.0	-1.4
OGLETHORPE	7	13	20	31.6	27.4
PAULDING	97	7	104	38.9	-19.0
PEACH	21	77	98	71.7	36.1
PICKENS	52	1	54	61.2	16.5
PIERCE	40	7	47	43.5	5.0
PIKE	19	10	29	30.0	4.7
POLK	106	34	140	62.2	5.9
PULASKI	6	20	26	46.1	13.6
PUTNAM	16	20	36	41.2	29.0
QUITMAN	1	7	8	68.2	-8.1
RABUN	36	0	36	44.6	39.3
RANDOLPH	6	38	44	87.1	21.0
ROCKDALE	93	15	110	27.9	5.9
SCHLEY	7	13	20	75.9	6.7
SCREVEN	13	36	50	55.8	22.6
SEMINOLE	14	25	39	66.4	2.9
SPALDING	97	182	279	71.9	8.2
STEPHENS	49	25	74	52.2	45.0
STEWART	5	29	34	81.0	48.4
SUMTER	28	144	172	75.9	16.8
TALBOT	5	17	22	54.6	39.3
TALIAFERRO	0	5	5	31.7	-41.0
TATTNALL	38	34	72	70.0	5.6
TAYLOR	8	28	36	64.1	-2.1
TELFAIR	17	31	48	74.9	13.0
TERRELL	8	54	62	83.9	10.6
THOMAS	55	148	203	74.8	11.1
TIFT	88	85	173	68.1	9.1
TOOMBS	50	71	121	72.8	25.6
TOWNS	11	0	11	32.3	10.3
TREUTLEN	13	15	28	61.0	14.9
TROUP	101	151	252	65.5	4.9
TURNER	12	59	71	118.9	24.8
TWIGGS	10	16	26	40.0	-25.0
UNION	30	0	30	46.1	1.5
UPSON	45	50	95	59.3	9.0
WALKER	202	10	212	55.8	15.2
WALTON	72	61	134	52.4	9.9
WARE	77	80	157	61.3	8.1
WARREN	1	24	25	71.9	-12.2
WASHINGTON	9	62	71	53.0	-8.6
WAYNE	63	47	110	69.8	8.9
WEBSTER	3	4	7	54.5	33.4
WHEELER	13	12	25	60.9	29.1
WHITE	29	3	32	39.4	3.8
WHITFIELD	253	19	274	57.0	-3.2
WILCOX	6	18	24	55.5	12.8
WILKES	8	29	38	53.0	22.3
WILKINSON	7	23	30	42.3	-9.1
WORTH	36	60	97	60.4	16.5
144 Small Counties	5,875	5,368	11,263	55.3	4.7
GEORGIA	9,061	12,820	21,974	54.1	11.4

*Percent change shows the change in rates from the period 1980–1984 to the period 1990–1992. Integrated with current Census data may not be statistically significant. See methodology.



Births to Teens

Percent change in teen birth rates
from 1980-1989 to 1990-1992

Decreased more than 10%

Changed less than 10%

Increased more than 10%

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

JUVENILES COMMITTED TO STATE CUSTODY

"Involvement with the justice system often compounds other institutional difficulties, including failure in school and in finding work. As a result, it frequently foreshadows adverse occupational, marital, and health-related outcomes as an adult, as well as continuing contact with the police and courts."

— National Research Council Panel on High Risk

Definition

The juvenile commitment rate is the number of youth ages 10–17 per 1,000 who have been adjudicated delinquent or unruly by the juvenile court and committed to state custody.

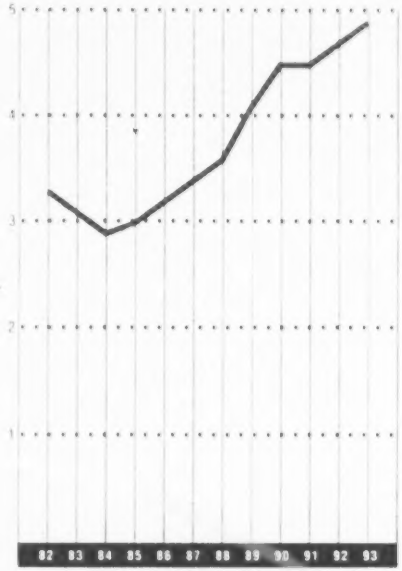
Variation in commitment rates may reflect community or judicial standards for what constitutes a "committable offense" and differing philosophies, policies and practices of law enforcement in handling delinquents.

Significance

The number of juveniles committed to state custody reflects the success or failure of families, schools and communities in meeting the needs of young people. If families are safe and supportive, educational experiences are meaningful, and communities

Juvenile Commitment Rate, Georgia, 1982–1993

Youth committed to state custody per 1,000 youth ages 10–17



NUMBER, 1993 3,631
RATE, 1993 ..... 4.9

48.7
% CHANGE FROM 1982

4.0
% CHANGE FROM 1992

offer opportunities for positive socialization and employment then youth are less likely to engage in delinquent behavior.

Youth who have been committed to state custody are less likely than their peers to succeed in school and work. Records kept by the Georgia Department of Children and Youth Services show that 55.3% of youth who are committed as juveniles recidivate either while they are still in juvenile custody or after they have been released.

Contributing Factors

- ***Family*** Family violence, instability and lack of supervision often contributes to delinquent behavior among young people.
- ***Community*** Community factors associated with high risk behavior among youth include poverty, violence, and few opportunities for job training, employment or recreation.
- ***Dropping Out of School*** Research shows that youth who drop out of school often fill their time with delinquent activities. Students who perform poorly in school, have behavior or substance abuse problems, and whose parents never completed high school are more likely to drop out than their peers.

*Who Is At Risk?**

- **The commitment rate in the large counties is 5.5 per 1,000—39.8% higher than the rate of 3.9 in the small counties.**
- **African-American youth make up 67% of those in state custody but represent only 33% of the child population in Georgia.**

*Based on data for 1990–1992

According to the Georgia Department of Children and Youth Services in 1994:

- **65% of youth committed to state custody come from single-parent homes.**
- **19% report having used alcohol and/or drugs once a month; 15% report weekly use; and about 3% report daily use.**
- **36% have moderate to severe mental health problems.**
- **The average monthly family income is $1,286 or $15,432 per year.**

*Changes Since The 1980s**

- **The juvenile commitment rate increased 40.7%.**
- **The commitment rate increased 50.1% in the large counties and 29.5% in the small counties.**

*Measures the change in rates from 1982–1984 to the period 1990–1993.

SOURCE OF DATA

Data are obtained from The Department of Children and Youth Services.

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STATE CUSTODY

Commitments to state custody for youth ages 10 to 17, number, rate (per 1,000) for 1990-1993, and percent change* since 1980s

Counties with population greater than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	114	455	569	8.3	203.9
CHATHAM	129	887	1,021	10.9	79.6
CHEROKEE	45	4	49	1.2	33.0
CLARKE	36	168	205	7.0	53.7
CLAYTON	139	124	272	3.2	65.3
COBB	273	167	450	2.3	67.1
DEKALB	96	1,008	1,117	5.2	35.5
DOUGHERTY	52	673	725	14.2	63.3
FLOYD	137	146	285	8.6	-8.0
FULTON	53	940	997	3.9	18.6
GWINNETT	437	91	561	3.3	72.0
HALL	41	32	73	1.7	25.7
HOUSTON	95	100	196	4.6	89.1
MUSCOGEE	153	614	788	10.0	58.8
RICHMOND	156	604	766	9.0	83.2
15 Large Counties	1,958	6,813	8,874	5.5	50.1

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	15	28	43	5.0	39.9
ATKINSON	3	1	4	NA	
BACON	2	7	9	1.6	40.8
BAKER	0	5	5	2.4	-32.4
BALDWIN	4	29	33	2.0	6.6
BANKS	8	3	11	2.1	133.4
BARROW	43	20	63	4.5	27.2
BARTOW	72	16	89	3.4	-7.0
BEN HILL	12	23	35	3.8	118.2
BERRIEN	7	9	16	2.3	-11.2
BLECKLEY	2	7	9	1.8	104.6
BRANTLEY	6	5	11	1.7	107.8
BROOKS	12	29	41	5.4	143.7
BRYAN	33	10	43	4.6	20.4
BULLOCH	58	77	135	8.1	15.4
BURKE	16	61	77	6.4	115.2
BUTTS	9	8	17	2.5	0.4
CALHOUN	0	3	3	NA	
CAMDEN	10	21	31	2.2	-24.7
CANDLER	1	15	16	4.2	80.6
CARROLL	52	52	104	3.0	75.8
CATOOSA	60	1	61	2.9	6.0
CHARLTON	8	4	12	2.7	-18.1
CHATTAHOOCHEE	4	2	6	0.8	23.0
CHATTOOGA	27	4	31	3.0	73.5
CLAY	1	1	2	NA	
CLINCH	2	0	2	NA	
COFFEE	16	33	49	3.1	26.0
COLQUITT	15	50	65	3.5	7.1
COLUMBIA	8	14	22	0.6	2.2
COOK	2	29	31	4.5	9.1
COWETA	27	103	130	4.9	10.8
CRAWFORD	2	4	6	1.3	115.0
CRISP	6	54	60	5.5	106.0
DADE	14	5	19	3.0	169.5
DAWSON	0	0	0	NA	
DECATUR	36	103	139	9.8	7.7
DODGE	6	21	27	3.3	182.7
DOOLY	0	7	7	1.3	34.7
DOUGLAS	47	15	65	1.8	-28.3
EARLY	4	25	29	4.6	95.1
ECHOLS	3	1	4	NA	
EFFINGHAM	54	26	81	5.3	69.0
ELBERT	24	42	66	7.5	81.8
EMANUEL	6	30	36	3.1	33.7
EVANS	6	32	38	8.3	57.1
FANNIN	11	0	11	1.6	10.8
FAYETTE	26	9	35	1.0	17.8
FORSYTH	25	0	25	1.3	-30.5
FRANKLIN	11	1	12	1.7	-48.5
GILMER	9	0	9	1.4	-10.7
GLASCOCK	0	0	0	NA	
GLYNN	24	146	170	6.1	-0.8
GORDON	67	12	79	4.5	-13.8
GRADY	23	36	60	5.8	20.0
GREENE	1	19	20	3.0	
HABERSHAM	9	3	12	1.0	81.3
HANCOCK	0	8	8	1.6	284.8
HARALSON	16	0	16	1.6	-10.6
HARRIS	9	10	19	2.3	87.1
HART	16	14	30	3.4	-31.1
HEARD	3	0	3	NA	
HENRY	74	42	117	4.1	120.9
IRWIN	0	6	6	1.5	-28.7
JACKSON	37	10	48	3.3	119.0
JASPER	7	0	7	1.7	143.2
JEFF DAVIS	22	6	28	4.6	31.3
JEFFERSON	0	29	29	3.1	-15.6
JENKINS	9	22	31	7.4	243.7
JOHNSON	1	2	3	NA	
JONES	2	3	5	0.5	25.4
LAMAR	9	14	23	3.7	44.5
LANIER	3	5	8	2.9	-40.3
LAURENS	17	40	57	2.9	72.5
LEE	5	3	8	0.8	-26.3
LIBERTY	37	85	129	5.8	14.3
LINCOLN	0	4	4	NA	
LONG	4	3	9	3.0	-29.3
LOWNDES	75	224	300	8.4	18.7
LUMPKIN	4	0	4	NA	
MACON	2	8	10	1.3	19.5
MADISON	27	6	33	3.2	-29.9
MARION	2	8	10	3.8	
MCDUFFIE	10	33	43	4.1	-0.2
MCINTOSH	3	8	11	2.6	60.7
MERIWETHER	8	24	32	2.7	91.8
MILLER	2	0	2	NA	
MITCHELL	13	70	83	7.0	-28.8
MONROE	12	11	23	2.7	15.0
MONTGOMERY	2	2	4	NA	
MORGAN	1	10	11	1.7	15.4
MURRAY	59	0	59	4.4	-11.2
NEWTON	29	67	96	4.8	60.3
OCONEE	15	7	22	2.5	-12.4
OGLETHORPE	4	17	21	4.8	55.7
PAULDING	55	2	57	2.8	17.9
PEACH	5	28	33	3.3	76.4
PICKENS	9	2	11	1.7	-27.2
PIERCE	1	4	5	0.7	40.7
PIKE	5	1	6	1.2	82.6
POLK	48	26	74	4.6	42.4
PULASKI	2	3	5	1.3	49.2
PUTNAM	3	8	11	1.7	98.7
QUITMAN	0	0	0	NA	
RABUN	6	0	6	1.2	40.9
RANDOLPH	0	15	15	3.5	12.0
ROCKDALE	35	13	48	1.7	3.4
SCHLEY	0	5	5	2.8	-6.0
SCREVEN	8	39	47	6.4	81.0
SEMINOLE	7	7	14	3.3	547.0
SPALDING	93	164	257	9.5	72.4
STEPHENS	7	8	17	1.7	68.3
STEWART	1	7	8	2.9	128.6
SUMTER	11	67	78	5.0	14.3
TALBOT	0	3	3	NA	
TALIAFERRO	0	1	1	NA	
TATTNALL	16	38	54	7.4	46.3
TAYLOR	3	2	5	1.3	-5.1
TELFAIR	2	20	22	4.1	156.0
TERRELL	0	22	22	4.1	129.8
THOMAS	30	72	104	5.3	68.3
TIFT	34	93	128	7.1	105.4
TOOMBS	20	62	82	6.5	45.0
TOWNS	2	0	2	NA	
TREUTLEN	0	5	5	1.6	-21.5
TROUP	43	191	234	8.5	155.1
TURNER	6	25	31	6.4	138.3
TWIGGS	1	2	3	NA	
UNION	3	0	3	NA	
UPSON	14	44	58	4.8	76.6
WALKER	82	3	85	3.0	37.0
WALTON	85	76	161	8.6	48.4
WARE	22	117	139	7.9	146.7
WARREN	0	3	3	NA	
WASHINGTON	13	28	41	4.2	0.1
WAYNE	14	16	30	2.6	7.4
WEBSTER	0	1	1	NA	
WHEELER	0	2	2	NA	
WHITE	2	0	2	NA	
WHITFIELD	234	33	272	7.9	38.0
WILCOX	3	5	8	2.2	260.4
WILKES	4	13	17	3.4	376.5
WILKINSON	1	3	4	NA	
WORTH	15	23	40	3.8	76.4
144 Small Counties	2,433	3,363	5,827	3.9	29.5
GEORGIA	4,391	9,376	13,901	4.7	40.2

*Percent change measures the change in rates from the period 1982-1989 to the period 1990-1993. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.
NA: Number too small to calculate a rate.

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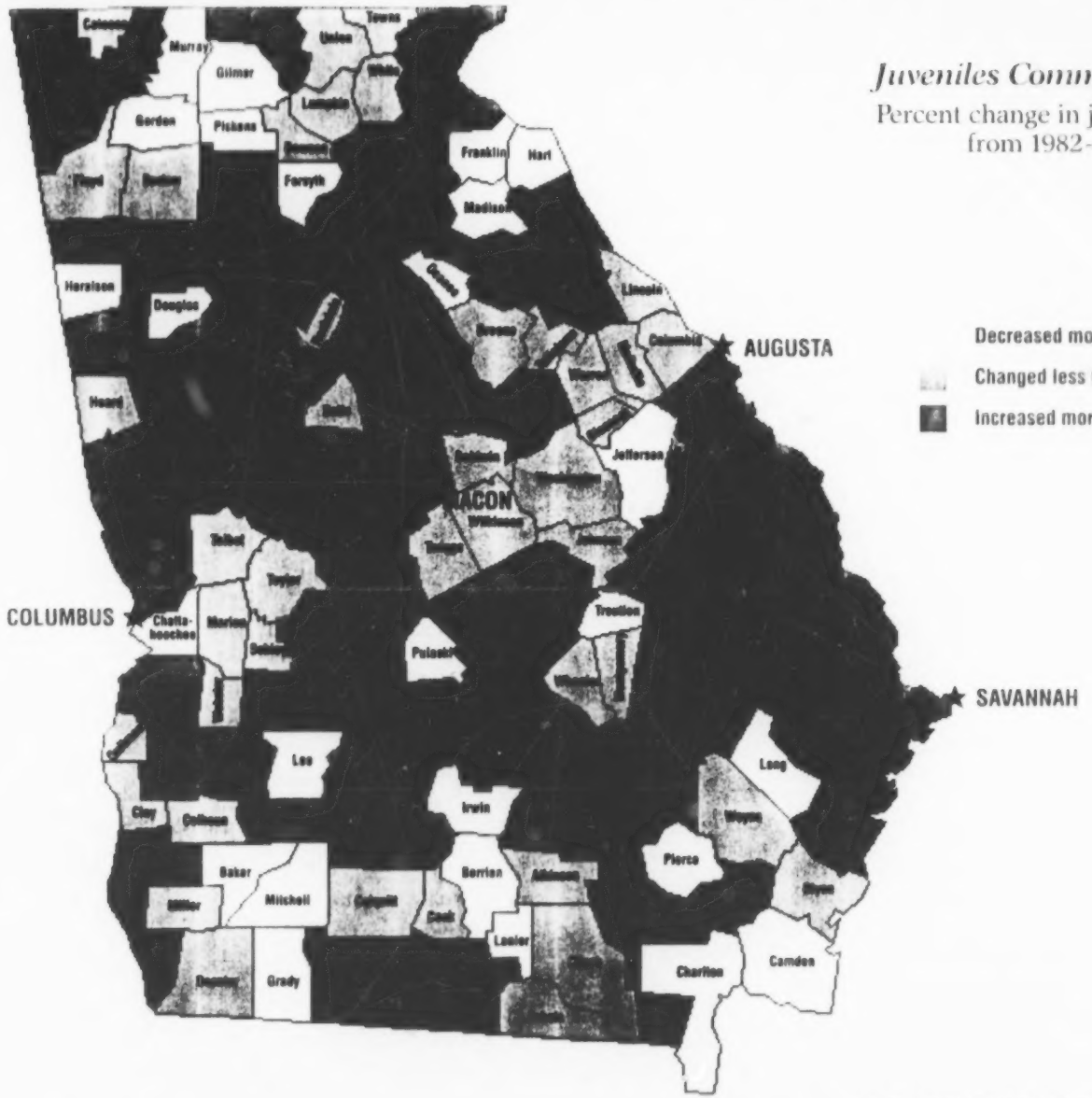
JUVENILES COMMITTED TO STATE CUSTODY



Juveniles Committed to State Custody

Percent change in juvenile commitment rates from 1982-1989 to 1990-1993

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"Decisions to drop out have more than economic consequences. Dropouts lose connections to adults and influences that can create purposefulness in their lives, the possibilities for careers, the skills for lifelong learning, healthy choices for themselves, and responsible choices on behalf of others."

National Education Goals Panel

GEORGIA'S
1 9 9 4
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43

Definition

The percent of youth completing high school is computed by dividing the number of public high school graduates by ninth grade enrollment three years earlier.

This indicator measures "on-time" completions and as such does not reflect students who graduate in more than four years or return later to earn a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma. Since 9th grade enrollment is used as the denominator, the indicator does not include students who drop out before high school or adjust for movement between school systems during the high school years.

Significance

High school completion indicates that a youth has a

High School Graduation Rate, Georgia, 1980–1993

Graduates per 100 students in enrollment in 9th grade three years earlier

NUMBER, 1993 59,414
RATE, 1993 ..... 64.6

10.1
CHANGE FROM 1980

2.3
CHANGE FROM 1992

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minimal level of knowledge and ability. Since a high school diploma is required for most better paying jobs, the completion rate measures future economic well-being. High school graduates earn more money than drop-outs and have a greater chance of succeeding economically.

Contributing Factors

- ***School Performance*** Students who experience early school failure, poor grade performance or are truant are less likely to graduate than their peers.
- ***Family*** Family factors which may place students at risk of dropping out include low-income, parents who have little formal education or who started the family as teens.

Who Is At Risk?

- **National studies find students from low-income families are three times more likely to drop out of school than children from middle-income families and nine times more likely to drop out than children from upper-income families.**
- **Research shows race does not predict dropping out when family background is taken into account; when students from the same income groups are compared, the difference in completion rates among different races and ethnic groups is small.**

- ***Individual*** Students who abuse alcohol or drugs, become pregnant, or marry are at increased risk of not graduating from school.
- ***Community*** Students are less likely to stay in school if their peers who do graduate are unable to find jobs in the community. Limited child care for parenting teens often prevents these students from completing high school.

*Changes Since The 1980s**

- **The high school completion rate increased 1.7%.**
- **The completion rate increased 5.1% in the small counties.**
- **In the large counties the completion rate decreased 1.4%.**

*Measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1989 to the period 1990–1991.

SOURCE OF DATA

Data come from the Georgia Department of Education. If there was no public high school or if the public high school closed in a county during this period, no rate was calculated for that county. City school systems were added in with the county in which they are located.

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HIGH SCHOOL

Students graduating high school: number and rate (per 100 students enrolled in 9th grade three years earlier) for 1990–1993, and percent change* since 1980s

Counties with population greater than 80,000

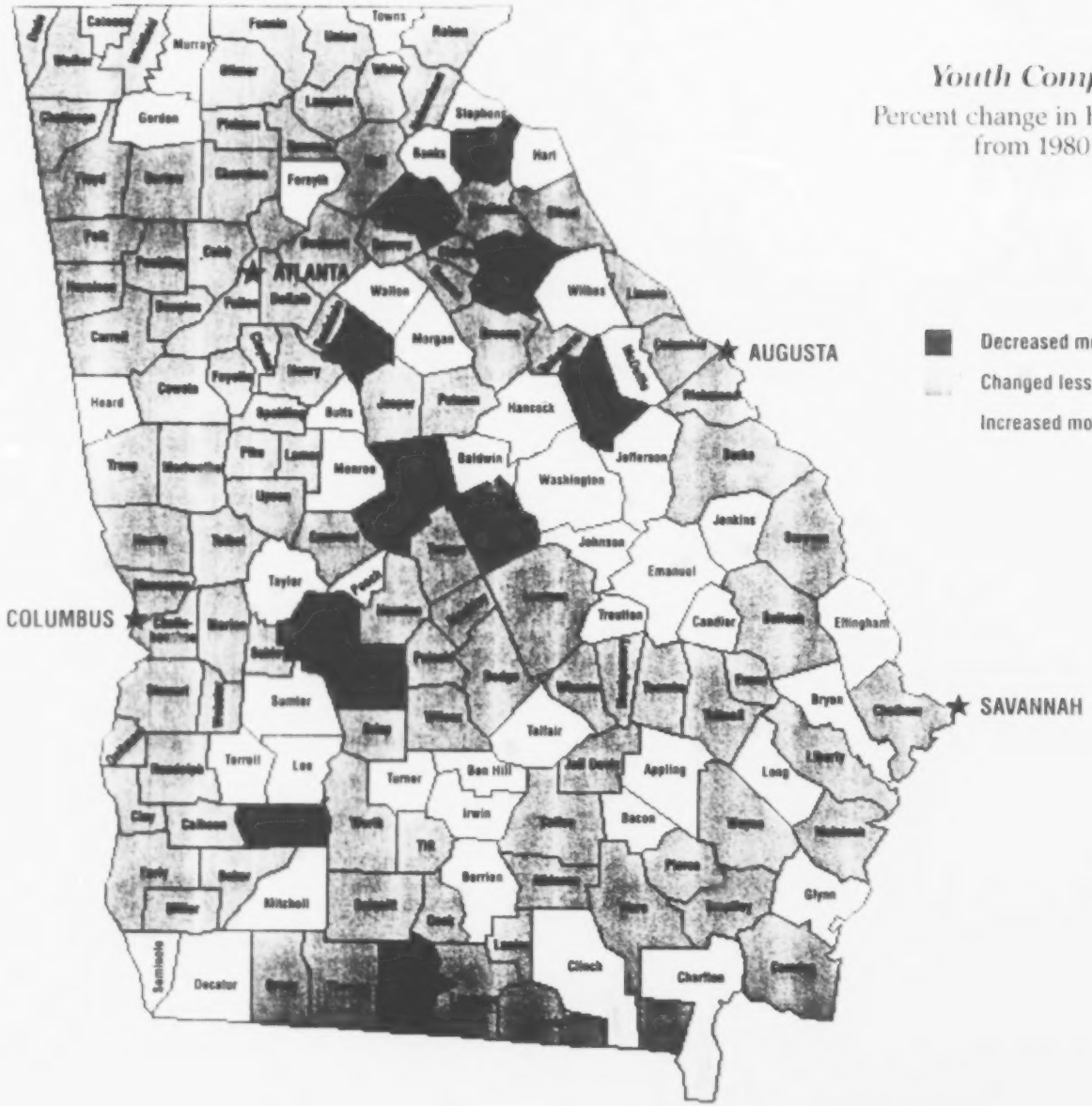
COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	4,287	49.8	-25.5
CHATHAM	4,892	47.2	1.3
CHEROKEE	2,912	60.0	3.8
CLARKE	2,271	59.0	9.4
CLAYTON	7,146	67.1	1.9
COBB	16,533	73.9	3.8
DEKALB	12,747	68.6	-9.1
DOUGHERTY	3,623	54.1	10.5
FLOYD	2,730	57.2	2.8
FULTON	19,963	60.0	3.3
GWINNETT	14,974	72.1	4.5
HALL	3,330	60.7	5.1
HOUSTON	3,706	69.6	0.0
MUSCOGEE	6,494	62.3	9.3
RICHMOND	6,335	60.3	-0.8
15 Large Counties	117,753	63.7	1.1

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
BERRIEN	861	61.0	13.2
BRYAN	549	65.0	6.1
BACON	330	75.3	13.1
BAKER		CLOSED	
BALDWIN	1,089	63.6	17.5
BANKS	335	63.6	11.3
BARROW	976	55.1	6.1
BARTOW	1,071	63.8	2.5
BEN HILL	790	67.3	11.1
BERRIEN	630	61.2	10.1
BLECKLEY	395	78.2	7.4
BRANTLEY	551	63.9	4.8
BROOKS	831	86.5	23.9
BRYAN	455	65.8	23.8
BULLOCH	1,590	68.5	2.8
BURKE	971	63.7	9.6
BUTTS	581	62.2	22.2
CALHOUN	191	74.6	3.1
CAMDEN	1,164	64.8	3.9
CANDLER	414	68.5	15.2
CARROLL	2,966	62.2	7.8
CATOOSA	1,099	58.0	0.6
CHARLTON	430	60.6	13.1
CHATTAHOOCHEE		CLOSED	
CHATTOOGA	973	60.7	7.4
CLAY		CLOSED	
CLINCH	319	64.4	17.5
COBB	3,753	64.0	6.0
COFFEE	1,515	65.9	4.0
COLQUITT	1,113	75.2	4.7
COOK	943	63.0	6.5
COWETA	2,031	66.4	7.5
CRAWFORD	397	68.0	0.4
CRISP	869	58.6	4.5
DADE	630	66.2	7.6
DAWSON	335	65.3	2.3
DECATUR	1,296	61.5	-21.0
DODGE	762	63.3	2.7
DOOLY	308	45.8	-15.0
DOUGLAS	2,940	59.0	6.8
EARLY	568	66.5	9.4
ECHOLS	110	69.2	0.4
EFFINGHAM	1,146	68.4	18.1
ELBERT	709	62.2	4.4
EMANUEL	898	69.0	28.8
EVANS	395	65.3	1.6
FANNIN	633	73.3	4.8
FAYETTE	3,226	81.1	-0.1
FORSYTH	1,628	75.5	-23.7
FRANKLIN	617	51.3	-13.5
GILMER	517	58.6	8.6
GLASCOCK	114	60.3	-17.4
GLYNN	2,258	63.3	17.9
GORDON	1,404	63.3	11.3
GRADY	863	63.6	1.2
GREENE	464	66.0	8.3
HABERSHAM	1,095	77.8	4.6
HANCOCK	446	84.6	20.6
HARALSON	872	69.5	8.0
HARRIS	565	53.7	-9.3
HART	801	64.8	11.6
HEARD	296	65.3	17.9
HENRY	1,972	59.4	-3.8
IRWIN	349	65.2	12.2
JACKSON	1,012	55.1	-10.4
JASPER	325	62.3	-0.3
JEFF DAVIS	554	63.1	8.9
JEFFERSON	656	52.5	15.4
JENKINS	386	64.2	11.5
JOHNSON	316	70.1	20.1
JONES	748	56.9	-13.1
LAMAR	416	64.0	8.1
LANIER	236	60.4	7.6
LAURENS	1,713	63.7	6.8
LEE	795	66.3	13.5
LIBERTY	1,488	56.4	-1.0
LINCOLN	348	77.3	2.1
LONG	189	67.3	35.2
LOWNDES	3,102	59.3	0.6
LUMPKIN	483	61.4	-4.5
MACON	573	51.6	-17.2
MADISON	755	57.3	-4.4
MARION	476	62.1	-0.9
MCDUFFIE	878	65.2	14.6
MCINTOSH	343	56.6	3.7
MERIWETHER	855	62.7	4.1
MILLER	266	66.0	-0.1
MITCHELL	1,146	80.1	18.0
MONROE	707	85.0	16.0
MONTGOMERY	276	64.2	1.3
MORGAN	541	61.9	13.3
MURRAY	872	49.3	13.0
NEWTON	1,339	46.1	-11.4
OCONEE	780	72.2	6.3
OGLETHORPE	322	54.1	-10.1
PAULDING	1,270	48.6	7.1
PEACH	784	62.2	16.7
PICKENS	518	64.3	0.9
PIERCE	643	71.5	7.6
PIKE	416	60.5	4.9
POLK	1,353	68.3	8.5
PULASKI	391	71.2	9.9
PUTNAM	443	55.9	4.7
QUITMAN		CLOSED	
RABUN	467	72.1	2.7
RANDOLPH	447	66.4	-1.2
ROCKDALE	2,540	68.4	5.9
SCHLEY		CLOSED	
SCREVEN	595	55.2	-1.4
SEMINOLE	394	67.9	17.7
SPALDING	1,961	60.3	8.5
STEPHENS	940	74.3	24.8
STEWART	210	67.1	-1.9
SUMTER	1,185	63.1	17.5
TALBOT	261	78.1	5.7
TALIAFERRO		CLOSED	
TATTNALL	643	60.3	9.8
TAYLOR	384	63.5	10.5
TELFAIR	418	58.4	10.8
TERRELL	298	57.9	30.3
THOMAS	1,695	61.8	9.0
TIFT	1,538	71.5	0.4
TOOMBS	972	60.7	2.2
TOWNS	219	84.9	20.5
TREUTLEN	285	61.0	22.1
TROUP	2,158	56.0	-8.5
TURNER	381	60.4	16.1
TWIGGS	253	40.4	-8.0
UNION	480	67.2	3.6
UPSON	1,011	60.0	8.4
WALKER	1,965	51.8	2.4
WALTON	1,503	60.6	10.5
WARE	1,462	64.3	2.2
WARREN	167	47.9	-14.8
WASHINGTON	690	61.7	26.9
WAYNE	1,033	66.9	6.2
WEBSTER		CLOSED	
WHEELER	250	76.9	8.4
WHITE	569	72.5	7.4
WHITFIELD	2,643	57.2	8.2
WILCOX	284	57.0	-4.1
WILKES	477	75.5	10.1
WILKINSON	407	64.5	10.1
WORTH	850	59.9	6.9
144 Small Counties	118,565	62.3	5.1
GEORGIA	235,859	63.0	1.7

*Percent change measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1983 to the period 1990–1993. Unusual circumstances (changes in rules and regulations) could be statistically significant. See methodology section for more information on high school dropout during these years.

YOUTH COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL



Youth Completing High School

Percent change in high school completion rates from 1980-1989 to 1990-1993

Decreased more than 10%

Changed less than 10%

Increased more than 10%

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No one outside a child's family may recognize difficulties likely to impede learning until they become evident in school. But professionals in child development know that the sources of those difficulties develop long before school begins.

—National Center for Clinical Infant Programs

Definition

The kindergarten retention rate is the percentage of children who are required to repeat this grade.

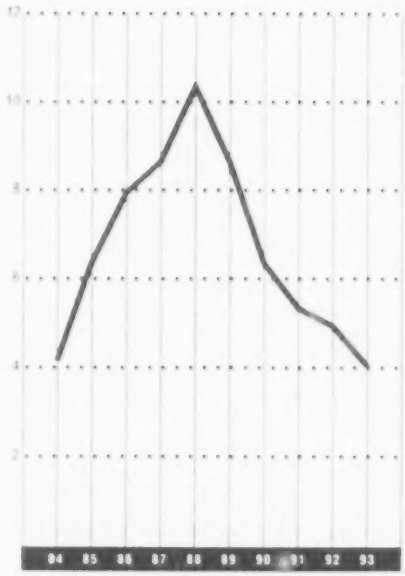
Since criteria for determining retention in kindergarten varies across school systems in Georgia, retention rates may be due to changes in school policy or individual decision-making by teachers rather than changes in children's readiness for, or success in, kindergarten. Actual retention rates may be greater than those cited because some children are placed in transitional kindergartens or pre-first grade classes.

Significance

Research shows that retention in even one grade significantly increases a child's chances of

Kindergarten Retention Rate, Georgia, 1984–1993

Children retained in kindergarten per 100 enrolled



NUMBER, 1993 4,098
RATE, 1993 ..... 4.1

2.8
% CHANGE FROM 1984

18.5
% CHANGE FROM 1992

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CHILDREN RETAINED IN KINDERGARTEN

dropping out before completing high school. Children retained in kindergarten have often suffered from inadequate nutrition, safety, health care and early education. The kindergarten retention rate also reflects a school's readiness to meet the individual needs of its youngest students.

Contributing Factors

It is difficult for children to be successful if they begin school poorly prepared. Once enrolled, a child's performance is impacted by a range of factors found inside and outside the classroom.

- ***Health*** Low birthweight, inadequate primary health care, and poor nutrition can inhibit a child's readiness to begin school and to succeed academically.

Who Is At Risk?

- **The kindergarten retention rate in the small counties is 43.5% higher than in the large counties.***
- **National data show that without adequate nurturing, nutrition, early education and health care children are at an increased risk of failing kindergarten.**

*Based on data for 1990–1993

- ***Community*** Children who live in areas where there is violence, poverty and few early education opportunities are less likely to succeed in school.
- ***Family*** Readiness for school can be affected by such family factors as abuse and neglect, use of drugs or alcohol, and parents lacking the skills and means to prepare their children for learning.
- ***A Responsive Workplace*** Children benefit when their parent's employers offer family-focused policies such as parental leave, flextime and child care assistance.

*Changes Since The 1980s**

- **The kindergarten retention rate decreased 34.3%. This reflects the use of standardized testing for kindergartners in the 1985–86 school year which lead to high rates over the next three years and the subsequent movement toward more individualized assessments by teachers.**

*Measures the change in rates from the period 1984–1989 to the period 1990–1993.

SOURCE OF DATA

Data come from the Georgia Department of Education.

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Children retained in kindergarten, number and rate (per 100) for 1990–1993, and percent change* since 1980s

Counties with population greater than 80,000

COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	940	10.7	-5.0
CHATHAM	341	2.9	-69.6
CHEROKEE	347	5.5	-20.1
CLARKE	179	4.7	-48.7
CLAYTON	233	2.0	-73.0
COBB	917	3.5	449.0
DEKALB	1,126	4.5	-27.4
DOUGHERTY	263	4.2	-55.9
FLOYD	452	9.7	-13.1
FULTON	1,740	4.8	-44.5
GWINNETT	113	0.4	18.9
HALL	654	9.9	-24.3
HOUSTON	196	4.0	-17.8
MUSCOGEE	234	2.4	-68.7
RICHMOND	865	7.4	-33.4
15 Large Counties	8,581	4.3	-34.7

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	59	5.8	-24.2
ATKINSON	31	12.6	-18.5
BACON	31	3.3	-74.5
BAKER	6	4.4	-45.5
BALDWIN	180	8.2	-38.9
BANKS	58	12.6	-69.8
BARROW	147	6.4	-28.0
BARTOW	197	5.4	-45.6
BEN HILL	55	2.6	-65.5
BERRIEN	100	6.9	-30.4
BLECKLEY	47	5.2	-85.7
BRANTLEY	51	2.8	-27.8
BROOKS	90	7.9	-46.5
BRYAN	104	9.3	-20.6
BULLOCH	368	8.4	-56.0
BURKE	190	11.1	-56.2
BUTTS	35	3.8	-62.9
CALHOUN	55	15.2	-96.4
CAMDEN	100	3.8	-37.3
CANDLER	4	NA	
CARROLL	184	4.0	-54.5
CATOOSA	96	4.1	-16.1
CHARLTON	50	9.0	-14.6
CHATTAHOOCHEE	25	13.2	-75.9
CHATTOOGA	82	6.4	-30.9
CLAY	24	12.5	-0.3
CLINCH	35	9.1	-32.8
COFFEE	219	9.6	-9.6
COLQUITT	102	4.0	-64.8
COLUMBIA	183	4.1	-30.9
COOK	51	5.2	-85.8
COWETA	109	8.3	-27.5
CRAWFORD	24	5.3	-52.7
CRISP	85	4.5	-38.1
DADE	61	4.4	-60.4
DAWSON	14	2.3	-56.9
DECATUR	355	18.2	-20.1
DODGE	123	11.4	-18.5
DOOLY	70	11.9	-26.8
DOUGLAS	33	0.7	-88.8
EARLY	61	7.0	-44.3
ECHOLS	12	6.3	-33.2
EFFINGHAM	71	3.6	-42.9
ELBERT	145	10.8	-18.5
EMANUEL	161	9.7	-38.5
EVANS	4	NA	
FANNIN	44	4.8	-33.6
FAYETTE	31	0.8	-87.3
FORSYTH	297	9.7	-35.8
FRANKLIN	67	6.4	-7.2
GILMER	38	4.3	-41.7
GLASCOCK	8	5.4	120.1
GLYNN	116	3.3	-36.7
GORDON	286	11.4	-12.6
GRADY	208	13.7	-19.9
GREENE	59	6.8	-19.1
HABERSHAM	115	7.0	-15.4
HANCOCK	23	3.9	-18.7
HARALSON	85	5.6	-45.8
HARRIS	65	7.0	-35.0
HART	49	4.8	-36.3
HEARD	50	8.6	-7.7
HENRY	192	5.0	-39.9
IRWIN	53	8.8	-36.2
JACKSON	82	4.1	-46.0
JASPER	27	5.3	-64.5
JEFF DAVIS	59	7.3	-1.9
JEFFERSON	64	5.4	-56.4
JENKINS	60	10.5	-42.5
JOHNSON	22	4.5	-23.6
JONES	117	9.3	-17.3
LAMAR	2	NA	
LANIER	40	10.1	12.6
LAURENS	256	9.3	-25.6
LEE	91	7.2	-11.2
LIBERTY	227	7.5	4.7
LINCOLN	57	11.3	-16.6
LONG	33	8.8	6.8
LOWNDES	339	6.6	2.5
LUMPKIN	27	3.1	-13.8
MACON	46	5.8	-16.0
MADISON	93	7.3	62.7
MARION	44	10.9	-19.6
MCDUFFIE	57	4.0	-34.5
MCINTOSH	18	3.4	-21.3
MERIWETHER	95	6.8	-21.7
MILLER	37	8.7	-17.6
MITCHELL	113	8.0	-29.6
MONROE	22	2.2	-84.0
MONTGOMERY	22	6.0	-5.0
MORGAN	43	5.2	-69.7
MURRAY	182	9.6	-6.5
NEWTON	84	2.8	66.6
OCONEE	56	4.7	-10.4
OGLETHORPE	36	6.1	-67.3
PAULDING	77	2.7	-61.6
PEACH	126	8.8	-8.2
PICKENS	79	8.2	-23.1
PIERCE	19	2.4	-74.3
PIKE	18	3.1	0.3
POLK	150	6.7	40.6
PULASKI	3	NA	
PUTNAM	2	NA	
QUITMAN	20	11.5	-1.0
RABUN	31	5.4	294.3
RANDOLPH	4	NA	
ROCKDALE	171	4.6	-28.7
SCHLEY	17	7.8	-32.4
SCREVEN	37	3.8	-51.6
SEMINOLE	13	2.3	-31.9
SPALDING	240	7.4	-38.4
STEPHENS	61	4.8	-34.0
STEWART	31	10.5	-26.4
SUMTER	164	9.1	15.6
TALBOT	0	NA	
TALIAFERRO	1	NA	
TATTNALL	44	4.3	63.9
TAYLOR	2	NA	
TELFAIR	17	2.6	-79.8
TERRELL	25	4.3	-65.2
THOMAS	321	11.7	51.1
TIFT	143	6.1	-42.4
TOOMBS	89	5.1	30.8
TOWNS	7	2.7	-18.5
TREUTLEN	17	4.5	-28.4
TROUP	310	7.7	-16.5
TURNER	24	4.0	-73.6
TWIGGS	9	1.5	-82.1
UNION	23	3.6	-77.5
UPSON	124	7.9	-11.6
WALKER	249	8.0	9.4
WALTON	128	5.1	-8.1
WARE	168	7.6	-19.3
WARREN	43	11.7	40.2
WASHINGTON	79	6.6	-38.8
WAYNE	15	1.0	-84.5
WEBSTER	1	NA	
WHEELER	0	NA	
WHITE	46	6.2	-41.6
WHITFIELD	378	7.7	-49.6
WILCOX	37	8.4	14.8
WILKES	26	4.1	-51.3
WILKINSON	48	6.8	-31.6
WORTH	129	9.1	-27.9
144 Small Counties	12,076	6.2	-33.3
GEORGIA	20,673	5.2	-34.3

*Percent change measures the change in rates from the period 1984–1989 to the period 1990–1993. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.
NA: Number too small to calculate a rate.

CHILDREN RETAINED IN KINDERGARTEN

Children Retained in Kindergarten

Percent change in kindergarten retention rates from 1984–1989 to 1990–1993

Decreased more than 10%

Changed less than 10%

Increased more than 10%

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It is not preordained that these families will fail; many will succeed. However, each of these factors puts a family at greater risk of instability and breaking up, of becoming financially poor or dependent on public assistance.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Definition

The families at risk index is the percentage of first births to mothers with one or more of the following risk factors: younger than age 20, not a high school graduate, or unmarried.

Significance

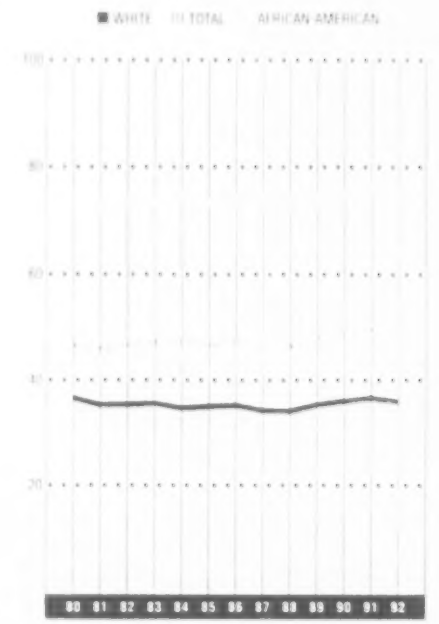
Families begun by teens, by women with less than a high school education, or by unmarried mothers face a greater likelihood of poverty and other obstacles. The families at risk index describes the number of new families that are starting with at least one strike against them. Families with all three risk factors are at the greatest risk of future instability and poverty.

Contributing Factors

- ***Unintended Pregnancy***

  While the reasons for

Percent of First Births to Mothers with at Least One Risk Factor



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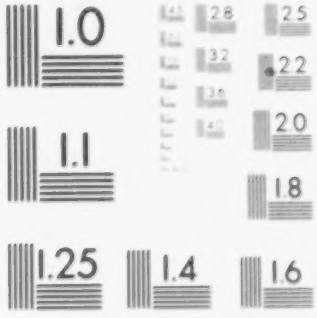

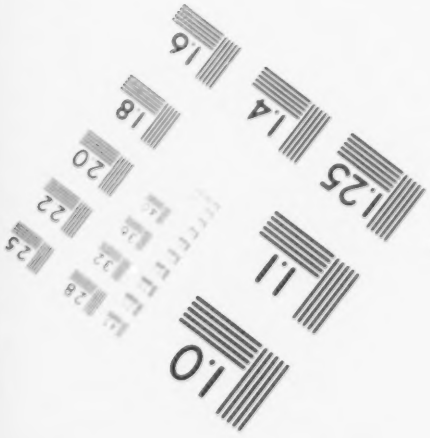

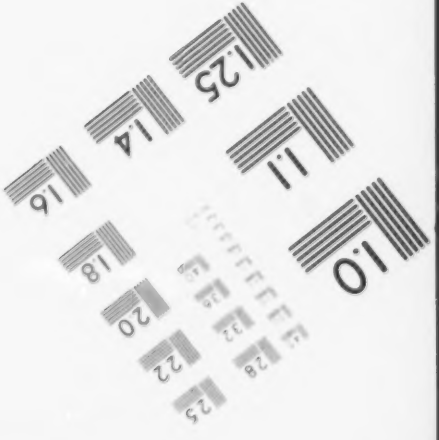

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unintended pregnancy are complex and not well understood, one contributing factor is a lack of awareness about or access to family planning and health education.

- ***Community*** When starting a family as a teenager, single parent or before graduating high school is widely accepted by a community it is unlikely that other teens will be deterred from such behavior. These same communities tend to have few other options to offer young people.

*Who Is At Risk?**

Families with at least one risk factor:

- **The rate in the small counties is 19.7% higher than the rate in the large counties.†**
- **The rate among African-Americans is 76.4%, more than twice the rate of 36.2% among whites.**

Families with all three risk factors:

- **For African-Americans the rate is 27.9%, more than three times the rate of 8.3% for whites.**

*Statistics are based on 1992 data unless otherwise indicated.
†Statistics are based on data from 1990–1993.

- ***Family*** Inadequate communication within families, lack of parental supervision, alcohol or drug use, a history of early pregnancy, single parenthood, and academic failure are family characteristics that are often repeated generationally.

*Changes Since The 1980s**

- **The rate of first births to families with at least one risk factor increased 4.5%.**
- **The rate increased 9.2% in the large counties, while remaining constant in the small counties.**

*Measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1989 to the period 1990–1992.

Characteristics of Mothers Having Their First Baby In 1992, by Race

MATERNAL CHARACTERISTICS	WHITE		AFRICAN-AMERICAN		TOTAL	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Younger Than Age 20	6,220	21.6	5,982	41.2	12,271	27.8
Not A High School Graduate	6,623	21.8	4,627	31.8	11,035	25.0
Unmarried	6,148	21.4	10,836	74.6	17,107	38.7

SOURCE OF DATA

Data come from birth certificate records maintained by the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Office of Vital Statistics.

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First births to mothers with at least one risk factor,* number and rate (per 100) for 1990–1992, and percent change** since 1980s

Counties with population greater than 80,000

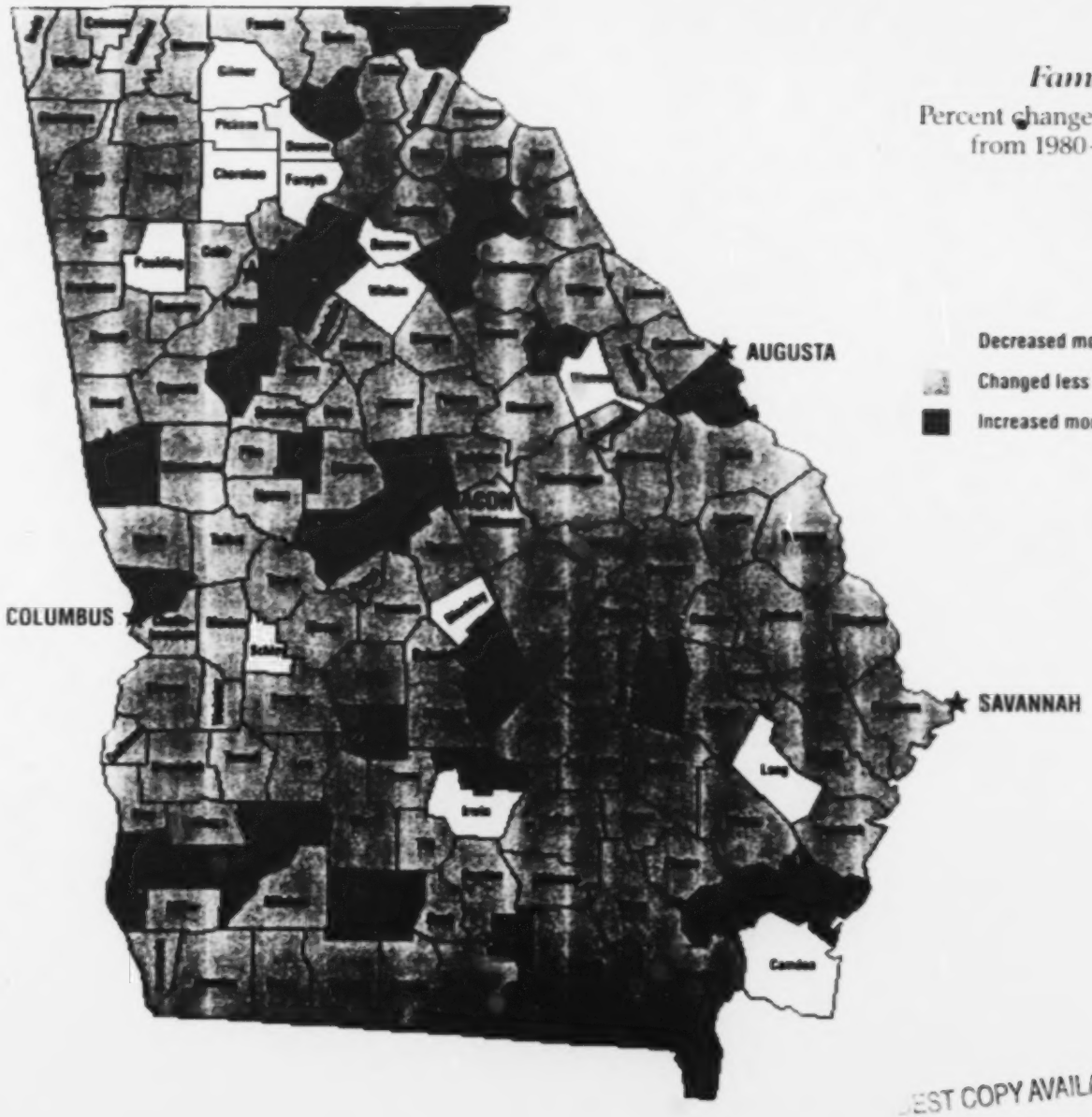
COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	518	1,242	1,763	59.4	10.6
CHATHAM	853	1,565	2,418	52.0	4.3
CHEROKEE	577	15	593	25.8	-15.9
CLARKE	217	414	638	44.6	14.0
CLAYTON	1,150	851	2,066	48.1	19.2
COBB	2,050	858	2,908	29.3	9.9
DEKALB	1,083	4,497	5,706	47.4	25.8
DOUGHERTY	358	953	1,312	65.4	15.5
FLOYD	584	240	829	54.0	8.6
FULTON	1,247	6,062	7,597	55.1	7.6
GWINNETT	1,624	300	1,982	23.6	15.7
HALL	858	190	1,059	49.0	4.2
HOUSTON	460	375	841	45.2	9.3
MUSCOGEE	889	1,389	2,293	53.7	10.7
RICHMOND	948	1,498	2,463	57.2	13.8
15 Large Counties	13,416	20,778	34,468	45.4	9.7

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	WHITE	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	TOTAL	TOTAL RATE	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	119	71	191	60.1	7.6
ATKINSON	60	23	84	67.7	-3.8
BACON	80	36	116	69.9	9.0
BAKER	11	34	45	76.3	11.8
BALDWIN	119	290	401	57.1	8.9
BANKS	59	6	66	41.3	-2.9
BARROW	228	82	309	45.1	-10.9
BARTOW	566	107	676	54.6	1.2
BEN HILL	105	115	220	70.1	12.2
BERRIEN	125	39	164	59.4	7.9
BLECKLEY	44	48	93	48.9	-11.0
BRANTLEY	119	10	131	66.5	21.2
BROOKS	54	135	189	70.8	7.5
BRYAN	125	42	169	48.8	8.5
BULLOCH	161	196	358	49.7	1.9
BURKE	72	202	274	68.0	4.4
BUTTS	78	88	166	66.7	8.6
CALHOUN	8	41	49	67.1	0.2
CAMDEN	106	60	167	38.8	-27.8
CANDLER	50	51	101	62.3	6.8
CARROLL	548	239	788	52.7	2.0
CATOOSA	290	3	293	62.1	8.2
CHARLTON	33	44	77	72.6	8.7
CHATTAHOOCHEE	37	45	83	38.7	0.6
CHATTOOGA	163	34	197	59.0	-5.2
CLAY	5	44	49	80.3	9.5
CLINCH	42	38	80	64.5	-6.7
COFFEE	255	188	443	66.4	9.8
COLQUITT	222	170	392	64.9	10.3
COLUMBIA	360	91	457	34.5	6.3
COOK	74	77	151	63.2	0.6
COWETA	343	256	599	48.6	6.9
CRAWFORD	47	37	84	60.9	21.2
CRISP	93	191	284	71.5	12.9
DADE	104	1	105	70.5	4.1
DAWSON	74	1	75	38.1	-18.4
DECATUR	102	187	289	67.7	-0.4
DODGE	102	112	214	64.1	10.8
DOOLY	26	86	112	65.5	-1.2
DOUGLAS	542	82	628	40.3	-3.6
EARLY	38	122	160	86.0	10.2
ECHOLS	20	0	20	60.6	24.6
EFFINGHAM	177	60	237	48.5	-1.7
ELBERT	83	113	196	64.1	4.1
EMANUEL	101	146	247	65.7	2.6
EVANS	36	53	90	58.8	1.6
FANNIN	106	0	106	52.7	-0.3
FAYETTE	179	24	204	23.9	11.8
FORSYTH	309	1	310	32.7	-11.4
FRANKLIN	171	65	176	57.5	-2.9
GILMER	112	0	112	43.9	-10.6
GLASCOCK	11	9	20	51.3	1.7
GLYNN	376	285	663	56.2	12.4
GORDON	387	34	421	53.5	-3.8
GRADY	79	126	205	62.5	1.5
GREENE	88	112	181	71.6	5.4
HABERSHAM	226	11	242	49.9	4.0
HANCOCK	12	120	132	78.1	6.4
HARALSON	188	26	214	56.3	3.2
HARRIS	93	68	162	48.6	4.5
HART	83	58	141	60.3	-8.7
HEARD	67	18	85	54.5	0.9
HENRY	387	123	512	34.4	-6.5
IRWIN	23	39	62	56.9	-11.6
JACKSON	248	42	290	51.4	-7.7
JASPER	35	41	76	54.3	-9.5
JEFF DAVIS	118	23	142	61.5	0.1
JEFFERSON	59	208	267	72.2	5.9
JENKINS	44	72	116	70.3	2.1
JOHNSON	38	61	99	64.7	3.6
JONES	113	61	174	48.7	15.6
LAMAR	90	89	179	68.3	18.2
LANIER	42	26	68	71.6	19.8
LAURENS	218	225	444	58.0	6.8
LEE	87	55	143	50.5	5.0
LIBERTY	292	311	623	38.9	6.8
LINCOLN	22	53	75	61.5	4.2
LONG	59	19	78	41.9	-13.1
LOWNDES	348	445	797	50.1	6.5
LUMPKIN	137	1	140	55.6	25.2
MACON	36	139	175	72.0	4.6
MADISON	180	40	221	50.6	14.5
MARION	23	32	55	60.4	4.1
MCDUFFIE	75	160	235	62.3	1.1
MCINTOSH	58	78	136	71.6	5.3
MERIWETHER	83	165	248	67.6	1.4
MILLER	27	28	55	57.9	-8.4
MITCHELL	80	223	303	71.5	7.0
MONROE	77	101	178	53.8	7.7
MONTGOMERY	41	35	76	58.9	6.8
MORGAN	60	94	154	60.2	3.9
MURRAY	330	1	332	56.8	-5.2
NEWTON	340	219	568	57.1	-2.3
OCONEE	90	14	105	34.7	10.6
OGLETHORPE	43	43	87	47.8	-0.7
PAULDING	332	27	360	32.9	-24.1
PEACH	84	180	264	62.9	9.1
PICKENS	96	2	98	44.7	-15.1
PIERCE	126	28	154	56.0	2.9
PIKE	58	36	94	50.0	-0.4
POLK	302	78	380	58.6	-2.5
PULASKI	28	46	74	56.1	-7.8
PUTNAM	60	66	126	57.0	-1.1
QUITMAN	6	18	24	72.7	8.3
RABUN	94	0	94	51.4	17.3
RANDOLPH	17	81	99	72.3	9.1
ROCKDALE	328	79	409	40.6	3.6
SCHLEY	14	17	31	52.5	-10.3
SCREVEN	53	120	173	68.1	8.9
SEMINOLE	35	58	93	72.7	-1.2
SPALDING	358	359	719	60.2	-0.7
STEPHENS	151	68	223	52.1	4.7
STEWART	8	63	71	74.7	1.9
SUMTER	106	283	389	63.4	7.1
TALBOT	15	85	100	69.4	4.5
TALIAFERRO	3	11	14	77.8	12.7
TATTNALL	107	72	179	60.3	6.4
TAYLOR	35	74	109	64.5	-2.3
TELFAIR	46	74	120	64.2	-0.4
TERRELL	34	122	156	72.6	4.1
THOMAS	190	309	500	64.7	7.8
TIFT	232	192	425	60.9	8.6
TOOMBS	186	143	329	64.8	16.0
TOWNS	39	0	39	55.7	10.6
TREUTLEN	34	41	75	64.1	-3.8
TROUP	309	340	649	57.8	10.5
TURNER	41	85	126	68.1	-0.6
TWIGGS	36	74	110	63.2	0.7
UNION	71	0	72	47.1	7.6
UPSON	161	140	301	60.9	5.6
WALKER	515	31	547	71.5	3.1
WALTON	274	153	428	50.5	-12.1
WARE	239	156	395	61.5	5.1
WARREN	7	59	66	58.4	-28.7
WASHINGTON	47	201	248	64.9	0.2
WAYNE	167	86	254	57.9	-1.5
WEBSTER	6	16	22	52.4	-5.0
WHEELER	28	29	57	65.5	3.2
WHITE	86	7	94	40.0	-8.0
WHITFIELD	825	51	879	56.8	-1.3
WILCOX	28	38	66	61.7	4.1
WILKES	22	86	109	61.2	6.6
WILKINSON	35	73	108	54.3	-3.4
WORTH	93	159	253	65.2	9.9
144 Small Counties	18,678	12,803	31,583	54.3	0.1
GEORGIA	32,094	33,387	66,051	49.3	4.5

*Risk factors are age (under 20), education (not a high school graduate), and marital status (not married).

**Percent change measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1984 to the period 1990–1992. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.



Families at Risk

Percent change in families at risk rates from 1980-1989 to 1990-1992

Decreased more than 10%

Changed less than 10%

Increased more than 10%

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Failure to prevent childhood poverty and address the economic needs of families leads to other social ills—more crime and delinquency, more teenage childbearing, more unhealthy babies, more failure in school, more substance abuse and mental illness, more child abuse and neglect, and lower productivity by tomorrow's labor force."

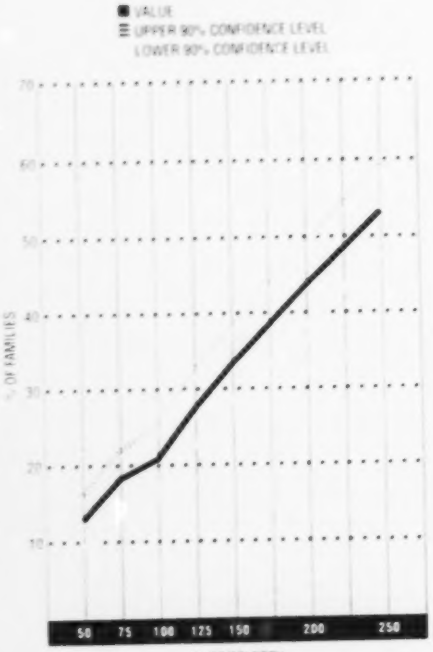
—National Commission on Children

Significance

No single factor jeopardizes the all-around healthy development of children more than poverty. Although debate over the complex issues that create poverty rages on, much is known of the impact on children. Being poor robs children of the means to meet their basic needs for adequate food, clothing, shelter and nurturance. It also denies them the chance to realize their dreams.

Poverty is linked to almost every Kids Count indicator—from low birthweight births to juveniles committed to state custody, abused and neglected children to high school completion. In addition to the price paid by individual children and their families, poverty extracts an enormous cost from society. All citizens help pay

Families With Children By Income Level Relative To The Poverty Line, Georgia, 1992*



Source: Current Population Survey, 1993

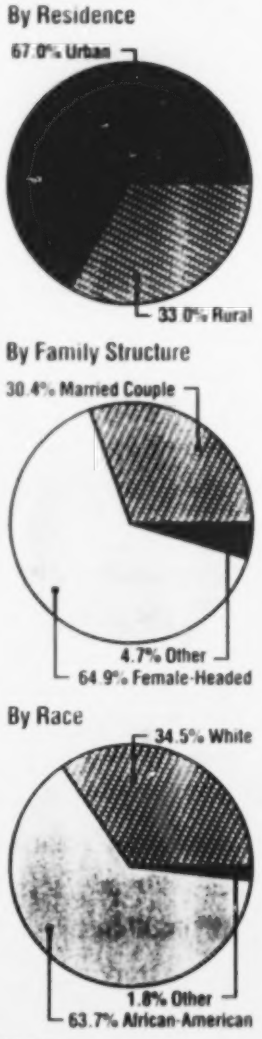
for the increased expenditures associated with the treatment of chronic health conditions and disabilities, special education, foster care, prisons and welfare.

Definition

Families are classified poor if their annual income before taxes falls below federal poverty thresholds which vary according to family size. Poverty thresholds are adjusted each year by the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index.

The current definition of poverty was adopted by the Social Security Administration in 1964. It is based on a 1955 survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture which found that families spent approximately one-third of their income on food. Thus, the federal poverty threshold was set at three times the cost of the Department of Agriculture's Economy Food Plan—that is, the bare minimum needed for an adequate diet.

Who Are Georgia's Poor Children And Their Families?*



Source: 1990 Census

Poor Children In Georgia

Comprehensive data on poor children and their families are gathered once every ten years as part of the decennial census. This is the only time county and neighborhood level data are collected. Since poverty status is based on reported pre-tax income received in the previous calendar year, the most recent data available are for 1989.

To redress this information gap, the Census Bureau includes supplemental questions regarding income in its annual Current Population Survey (CPS). A national sample of adults are surveyed and the findings are used to make population estimates. Since Georgia is the 11th most populous state, it is now possible to extract the Georgia data and calculate state estimates.

Severity of Poverty

According to the 1993 CPS, 12.6% of families with children had annual incomes 50% or less than the federal poverty line. In other words, one in every eight Georgia families with children was living on half of what is considered a minimally sufficient income. One in five (20.8%) families with children has income at or below the official poverty threshold.

On the other side of the poverty line are the near poor. Although their annual family income exceeds the poverty threshold by up to 50%, this

does not ensure that they can adequately provide for their children. Because of limited economic means, the near poor face the risk of falling under the poverty line. The CPS estimates that 12.5% of Georgia families with children fall between 100% and 150% of the poverty line. Thus, nearly one in three families with children are either poor or near poor.

Income Thresholds For Family Of Three In 1993*

INCOME LEVEL	ANNUAL INCOME
50% Poverty	$ 5,945.00
75% Poverty	$ 8,917.50
100% Poverty	$11,890.00
125% Poverty	$14,862.50
150% Poverty	$17,835.00
200% Poverty	$23,780.00
250% Poverty	$29,725.00

*Based on U.S. Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines

Contributing Factors

Family structure, community factors and the earning capacity of adults have an important bearing on child poverty.

- ***Earning Capacity*** The primary source of income for families with children is the money earned by adults living within the household. Earning capacity is influenced by educational attainment, specialized training, and work experience. Adults with low education levels are likely to face economic limitations. For example, a full-time, year-round job paying the minimum wage ($4.25 per hour) is not sufficient to bring a family of three above poverty.
- ***Family Structure*** Married couple families have two potential wage-earners. Having two wage-earners becomes an economic imperative for families in low-wage jobs. In single parent families, child support payments can provide this critical economic benefit.
- ***Community Factors*** The local economy, transportation, and housing markets play an important role in family income. Education, job training and child care can promote economic self-sufficiency and help families rise above or avoid economic hardship.

Cost Of Raising Children vs. Resources Available To Poor Families*

- The average yearly cost of raising 2 children for two-parent families with incomes from $32,000 to $54,000 is $14,740
- The federal poverty line for family of 3 is $11,890
- Annual earnings of full-time minimum wage worker ($4.25 per hour) are ..... $ 8,840
- The maximum annual AFDC grant in Georgia to family of 3 ($280 per month) is ..... $ 3,360

*Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture (1993), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1993), Georgia Department of Human Resources (1993)

County Data

While the CPS fills a void on the state level between each census, there are no equivalent data available on poverty among families with children on a county level. In the absence of a direct measure of income, an indirect or proxy measure

must be used. Public programs with income eligibility guidelines offer such a proxy measure. These are programs where family income must fall below a specified amount in order for family members to be eligible to receive the benefits—for example: food stamps, public housing, Medicaid and child care assistance have strict income requirements. Public assistance programs use varying income guidelines to determine eligibility.

Two programs serve as proxy measures of poverty among children—Aid to Families with Dependent Children and the School Lunch Program. Participation data for each program are available annually at the county level, making it a suitable Kids Count indicator. Because each program has different income guidelines, they provide different measurements. The maximum income allowable for a family of three to receive AFDC is $5,088 or just under 50% of the poverty line. The school lunch program income thresholds are 133% of poverty for the free lunch and 185% of poverty for the reduced price lunch, thus providing an indicator which includes the near poor.

Using program data as a proxy measure of poverty has some important limitations. All children who meet the income guidelines do not inevitably receive benefits. For example, parents may not know they qualify for AFDC or may choose not to enroll their child in the school lunch program. In addition, there are non-economic eligibility criteria for public assistance programs such as residency and work requirements for mothers receiving AFDC. The net result of these limitations is that these indirect measures underestimate the number of poor children.

Severity Of Poverty Among Families With Children: Georgia And United States, 1992*

	NUMBER	PERCENT OF FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN	
INCOME LEVEL	Georgia	Georgia	United States
50% Poverty	114,000	12.6	7.8
75% Poverty	161,000	17.8	12.9
100% Poverty	188,000	20.8	17.7
125% Poverty	248,000	27.3	22.9
150% Poverty	301,000	33.2	27.9
200% Poverty	395,000	43.6	38.2
250% Poverty	480,000	53.0	48.6

*These are population estimates from the 1993 Current Population Survey. See Table 3 in Appendices for rates at 90% confidence interval.

SOURCES OF DATA

AFDC: All data refer to the state fiscal year and come from the Division of Family and Children Services, Georgia Department of Human Resources.

School Lunch Program: All data refer to the school year and come from the Georgia Department of Education.

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Children Receiving AFDC, Number and Rate (per 100) for 1989 and 1993, and Percent Change*

Counties with population greater than 80,000

COUNTY	1989 NUMBER	PERCENT	1993 NUMBER	PERCENT	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	7,344	18.2	10,676	27.7	51.7
CHATHAM	9,620	16.7	12,801	22.7	35.6
CHEROKEE	526	2.1	1,039	3.7	73.4
CLARKE	2,476	14.2	3,742	20.8	46.3
CLAYTON	2,025	4.0	5,897	11.5	187.6
COBB	2,047	1.9	5,627	4.6	150.8
DEKALB	8,056	6.2	19,135	14.9	141.3
DOUGHERTY	7,657	25.7	8,861	31.8	23.7
FLOYD	1,867	9.5	2,831	15.2	60.9
FULTON	30,595	19.4	46,953	30.0	54.2
GWINNETT	790	0.8	2,795	2.5	197.3
HALL	859	3.5	1,928	7.7	117.0
HOUSTON	2,263	9.0	3,251	12.9	43.4
MUSCOGEE	7,509	15.4	10,807	22.6	46.0
RICHMOND	9,358	18.2	13,099	25.5	40.6
15 Large Counties	92,992	10.5	149,442	16.5	56.4

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	1989 NUMBER	PERCENT	1993 NUMBER	PERCENT	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	587	12.6	672	15.5	22.8
ATKINSON	178	9.4	280	15.7	66.0
BACON	496	17.2	568	20.6	19.8
BAKER	171	15.5	246	24.1	55.3
BALDWIN	1,289	14.0	1,512	16.8	20.1
BANKS	108	4.3	195	7.0	76.8
BARROW	557	6.8	918	10.4	53.7
BARTOW	669	3.4	1,354	8.4	90.2
BEN HILL	849	17.1	985	19.7	15.5
BERRIEN	421	10.7	639	16.7	56.2
BLECKLEY	393	14.1	389	14.6	3.4
BRANTLEY	273	8.2	428	12.3	50.6
BROOKS	986	21.2	1,076	24.3	14.7
BRYAN	466	9.6	593	10.9	13.8
BULLOCH	1,422	14.4	1,773	18.0	24.9
BURKE	1,510	22.1	1,682	24.6	11.3
BUTTS	440	11.1	611	15.6	40.7
CALHOUN	236	15.7	337	25.4	61.3
CAMDEN	429	4.9	839	7.9	60.8
CANDLER	338	16.0	472	22.9	43.5
CARROLL	1,221	6.5	2,355	11.9	84.3
CATOOSA	571	5.2	920	8.4	63.6
CHARLTON	342	12.9	482	18.3	41.4
CHATTAHOOCHEE	117	2.4	172	3.9	60.4
CHATTOOGA	542	9.4	604	11.0	17.3
CLAY	316	31.7	356	37.7	18.8
CLINCH	383	20.2	403	23.7	17.3
COFFEE	1,223	13.8	1,779	20.1	45.1
COLQUITT	2,036	19.4	2,471	24.5	25.9
COLUMBIA	644	3.3	1,096	5.0	49.9
COOK	406	10.3	637	17.4	68.1
COWETA	1,579	10.5	2,193	13.5	28.6
CRAWFORD	270	10.6	389	15.4	45.0
CRISP	1,670	27.7	1,888	32.2	16.3
DADE	165	3.8	238	7.2	51.2
DAWSON	109	4.4	197	6.6	52.0
DECATUR	1,480	19.2	1,868	25.5	32.6
DODGE	676	14.6	806	18.7	28.2
DOOLY	646	21.1	705	25.4	20.3
DOUGLAS	512	2.6	1,438	7.0	173.9
EARLY	988	26.9	1,126	34.6	28.3
ECHOLS	70	9.9	88	13.2	33.2
EFFINGHAM	654	8.4	963	11.3	35.4
ELBERT	867	16.9	1,062	21.5	27.1
EMANUEL	1,114	17.7	1,385	22.8	28.6
EVANS	458	17.8	552	22.1	24.7
FANNIN	295	7.9	388	10.7	34.8
FAYETTE	167	1.0	399	1.9	99.8
FORSYTH	247	2.2	453	3.7	68.1
FRANKLIN	294	7.4	516	13.4	81.2
GILMER	247	7.4	394	11.5	55.6
GLASCOCK	39	6.9	50	9.5	37.0
GLYNN	1,754	10.8	2,544	15.7	45.0
GORDON	415	4.4	671	7.1	61.6
GRADY	828	14.3	1,088	19.8	38.6
GREENE	486	13.4	756	21.1	56.9
HABERSHAM	168	2.6	312	4.8	88.5
HANCOCK	603	21.2	652	24.9	17.6
HARALSON	446	7.7	781	13.2	71.6
HARRIS	297	6.6	459	10.2	54.4
HART	420	8.5	609	13.1	54.6
HEARD	192	8.0	294	11.4	43.1
HENRY	651	4.1	1,089	6.2	48.7
IRWIN	445	17.6	544	23.1	30.9
JACKSON	409	5.2	957	11.9	130.6
JASPER	329	13.8	411	17.1	23.7
JEFF DAVIS	287	8.4	416	12.8	52.4
JEFFERSON	1,155	21.6	1,258	25.3	17.0
JENKINS	434	17.5	476	20.5	17.1
JOHNSON	427	17.3	521	22.1	27.7
JONES	446	7.8	641	10.8	39.2
LAMAR	378	10.9	550	16.4	50.5
LANIER	276	16.7	320	21.1	26.0
LAURENS	1,976	17.5	2,410	21.6	23.1
LEE	455	8.9	486	8.7	-2.3
LIBERTY	1,358	8.7	1,901	10.9	24.7
LINCOLN	263	13.2	305	15.5	18.1
LONG	182	9.9	260	13.0	32.0
LOWNDES	3,138	14.8	4,434	20.9	41.2
LUMPKIN	132	3.8	226	6.0	59.7
MACON	939	22.4	1,118	28.1	25.8
MADISON	337	6.0	558	9.9	64.4
MARION	250	15.5	327	21.2	37.5
MCDUFFIE	858	14.5	1,136	19.2	32.6
MCINTOSH	341	13.9	449	19.3	38.5
MERIWETHER	889	13.5	1,190	18.5	37.1
MILLER	353	19.8	318	20.3	2.3
MITCHELL	1,532	23.4	1,831	30.0	28.2
MONROE	353	7.7	624	13.2	71.8
MONTGOMERY	246	13.1	246	13.6	4.4
MORGAN	319	8.9	409	11.8	32.2
MURRAY	177	2.4	462	6.0	149.7
NEWTON	1,184	10.2	1,769	15.0	46.9
OCONEE	126	2.6	256	4.7	84.7
OGLETHORPE	262	10.1	360	14.6	43.9
PAULDING	396	3.4	923	7.0	107.7
PEACH	1,311	22.6	1,532	27.0	19.5
PICKENS	143	4.0	280	7.8	89.6
PIERCE	322	8.5	517	14.0	64.0
PIKE	175	6.3	239	8.6	36.7
POLK	830	9.2	1,225	14.0	51.7
PULASKI	395	17.6	437	21.8	23.8
PUTNAM	393	11.0	439	11.6	5.5
QUITMAN	178	30.2	198	38.5	27.4
RABUN	129	5.0	168	6.7	34.5
RANDOLPH	654	27.0	788	36.4	34.5
ROCKDALE	568	3.8	950	5.8	54.4
SCHLEY	153	14.8	192	20.1	35.8
SCREVEN	784	19.2	814	20.6	7.2
SEMINOLE	521	21.6	663	30.0	39.0
SPALDING	1,707	11.2	2,542	16.5	48.1
STEPHENS	468	8.3	708	13.0	57.3
STEWART	384	24.2	451	31.8	31.2
SUMTER	1,941	21.9	2,538	29.1	32.9
TALBOT	279	15.5	367	21.9	40.9
TALIAFERRO	103	19.3	113	21.9	13.8
TATTNALL	784	18.0	909	22.5	25.5
TAYLOR	554	25.5	649	31.9	25.0
TELFAIR	611	19.8	646	22.3	12.7
TERRELL	801	24.6	973	33.7	36.7
THOMAS	1,857	16.5	2,479	22.8	38.1
TIFT	1,473	14.6	2,039	20.5	40.2
TOOMBS	1,130	15.9	1,377	19.7	24.0
TOWNS	35	3.0	83	7.2	143.7
TREUTLEN	273	15.8	327	20.3	28.5
TROUP	1,796	11.6	2,830	18.0	54.5
TURNER	697	25.1	762	29.8	18.7
TWIGGS	489	16.2	572	19.5	20.0
UNION	133	5.0	178	6.6	32.9
UPSON	879	13.0	1,075	16.6	27.4
WALKER	694	4.6	1,306	9.0	97.1
WALTON	740	6.9	1,229	11.3	63.4
WARE	1,727	17.8	2,046	23.1	29.8
WARREN	309	17.6	434	27.2	54.7
WASHINGTON	913	16.1	1,188	21.7	34.8
WAYNE	981	15.1	1,167	18.1	19.8
WEBSTER	86	13.5	81	13.9	3.5
WHEELER	265	18.4	262	19.9	7.9
WHITE	69	2.3	167	5.5	135.0
WHITFIELD	672	3.5	1,507	8.2	131.8
WILCOX	308	15.2	403	21.4	40.3
WILKES	413	14.5	446	16.5	13.9
WILKINSON	508	16.6	566	19.7	18.2
WORTH	1,153	19.2	1,375	23.0	19.4
144 Small Counties	90,861	10.9	123,526	14.6	34.7
GEORGIA	183,853	10.7	272,968	15.6	45.7

*Percent change measures the change in rates from 1989 to 1993. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.

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Students Receiving Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch, Number and Rate (per 100) for 1989 and 1993, and Percent Change*

Counties with population greater than 80 000

COUNTY	1989 NUMBER	PERCENT	1993 NUMBER	PERCENT	PERCENT CHANGE
BIBB	11 185	46 5	14 205	55 9	20 1
CHATHAM	16 160	48 6	17 763	50 9	4 8
CHEROKEE	1 771	11 6	2 651	14 2	21 7
CLARKE	4 940	45 8	6 048	56 1	22 5
CLAYTON	7 671	22 8	14 762	39 3	72 2
COBB	7 276	10 1	14 690	17 6	74 4
DEKALB	22 966	30 6	38 476	46 2	51 1
DOUGHERTY	10 517	56 1	11 978	64 4	14 8
FLOYD	3 489	26 3	4 955	36 0	36 8
FULTON	49 067	48 2	58 517	53 9	11 9
GWINNETT	4 211	6 6	9 791	12 6	89 9
HALL	3 765	23 1	5 839	31 8	37 5
HOUSTON	4 301	27 5	6 172	35 1	27 8
MUSCOGEE	13 021	44 1	18 449	58 0	31 4
RICHMOND	15 800	48 6	21 264	60 9	25 2
15 Large Counties	**176 148**	**31 7**	**245 560**	**39 9**	**25 8**

Counties with population less than 80 000

COUNTY	1989 NUMBER	PERCENT	1993 NUMBER	PERCENT	PERCENT CHANGE
APPLING	1 367	38 8	1 549	46 5	19 8
ATKINSON	853	64 9	1 070	76 6	18 0
BACON	789	36 7	1 002	46 9	27 9
BAKER	355	88 8	365	100 0	12 7
BALDWIN	2 235	37 6	2 780	43 9	16 6
BANKS	507	33 0	718	42 6	29 3
BARROW	1 547	28 1	1 993	31 7	13 0
BARTOW	2 418	22 9	4 179	35 5	55 0
BEN HILL	1 601	42 8	2 048	57 4	34 3
BERRIEN	1 032	37 4	1 290	46 9	25 3
BLECKLEY	653	32 9	789	38 0	15 4
BRANTLEY	971	39 1	1 245	48 4	23 7
BROOKS	1 854	68 1	2 022	77 3	13 5
BRYAN	1 257	34 1	1 649	36 9	8 0
BULLOCH	2 992	43 3	4 133	54 0	24 8
BURKE	2 785	64 3	3 468	75 1	16 8
BUTTS	1 060	39 2	1 272	44 8	14 3
CALHOUN	786	64 5	815	67 2	4 2
CAMDEN	1 550	27 8	2 681	35 3	26 9
CANDLER	787	51 4	930	60 0	16 9
CARROLL	3 397	24 1	4 841	35 3	46 2
CATOOSA	1 479	19 2	2 152	27 0	40 4
CHARLTON	748	43 2	992	52 0	20 5
CHATTAHOOCHEE	201	59 1	283	67 1	13 4
CHATTOOGA	1 245	30 2	1 528	37 1	23 0
CLAY	340	82 3	326	87 4	6 2
CLINCH	755	53 6	889	63 7	18 8
COFFEE	2 816	45 1	3 845	57 9	28 4
COLQUITT	3 438	46 2	4 247	55 0	19 0
COLUMBIA	1 863	14 0	2 501	15 6	10 9
COOK	1 197	44 5	1 554	56 6	27 1
COWETA	2 898	29 0	4 051	34 2	17 9
CRAWFORD	738	49 6	895	54 1	9 1
CRISP	2 460	55 4	2 965	67 0	20 9
DADE	648	29 1	794	35 7	22 8
DAWSON	438	25 3	674	34 7	37 1
DECATUR	3 057	51 8	3 456	60 0	15 7
DODGE	1 474	44 7	1 045	31 5	-29 5
DOOLY	1 503	82 0	1 522	89 5	9 2
DOUGLAS	2 004	14 6	3 346	23 0	57 0
EARLY	1 592	62 7	1 759	67 7	8 0
ECHOLS	202	39 8	283	47 0	18 2
EFFINGHAM	1 379	24 1	1 939	29 7	23 3
ELBERT	1 405	38 8	1 901	50 1	29 2
EMANUEL	2 759	60 1	3 228	68 1	13 3
EVANS	840	46 5	1 126	62 5	34 5
FANNIN	965	34 1	1 330	44 6	30 8
FAYETTE	451	3 6	1 014	6 6	82 8
FORSYTH	856	11 5	1 415	16 5	43 4
FRANKLIN	790	26 0	529	16 7	-35 8
GILMER	711	27 2	1 135	39 5	45 4
GLASCOCK	133	27 3	239	49 2	80 4
GLYNN	3 269	31 8	4 120	37 7	18 7
GORDON	1 361	19 7	1 968	28 9	46 7
GRADY	1 848	45 3	2 380	55 1	21 5
GREENE	1 626	64 3	2 102	81 0	25 9
HABERSHAM	1 234	25 2	1 272	24 2	-3 8
HANCOCK	1 630	87 3	1 870	99 4	13 8
HARALSON	933	23 2	1 553	35 6	53 3
HARRIS	1 105	40 9	1 356	44 9	9 9
HART	989	30 6	1 322	40 4	32 1
HEARD	584	34 2	811	46 3	35 7
HENRY	1 660	16 0	2 652	20 0	24 7
IRWIN	871	52 9	1 078	60 1	13 5
JACKSON	1 920	33 4	2 542	41 2	23 5
JASPER	774	49 6	980	58 2	17 3
JEFF DAVIS	864	34 3	1 118	43 2	26 0
JEFFERSON	2 391	67 7	2 619	73 3	8 2
JENKINS	950	54 8	1 112	65 0	18 6
JOHNSON	878	55 3	1 164	75 7	36 9
JONES	885	24 4	1 302	32 6	33 5
LAMAR	925	41 8	1 092	48 6	16 3
LANIER	627	54 0	773	59 3	9 9
LAURENS	3 581	43 6	4 529	52 8	20 9
LEE	1 017	26 7	1 289	29 2	9 7
LIBERTY	3 075	39 0	4 803	48 7	24 8
LINCOLN	672	45 1	435	30 4	-32 6
LONG	508	52 8	791	60 7	15 1
LOWNDES	6 005	41 3	7 286	47 4	13 4
LUMPKIN	597	25 1	944	35 9	43 1
MACON	1 889	70 6	2 066	81 1	14 8
MADISON	1 020	27 3	1 557	38 3	40 3
MARION	834	55 7	1 020	65 0	16 6
MCDUFFIE	1,799	44 1	2,151	49 8	12 8
MCINTOSH	871	53 3	1 041	65 5	23 0
MERIWETHER	2,504	58 5	2,711	68 4	16 9
MILLER	639	48 4	630	49 5	2 2
MITCHELL	3,272	66 7	3,410	73 4	10 0
MONROE	1 001	33 5	1,414	41 7	24 6
MONTGOMERY	721	60 0	758	64 8	8 0
MORGAN	1 035	39 7	1,188	45 1	13 7
MURRAY	1 100	21 3	2 045	36 8	72 4
NEWTON	2 639	33 7	3 564	42 3	25 7
OCONEE	512	15 6	808	20 0	28 3
OGLETHORPE	687	40 1	881	47 8	19 2
PAULDING	1 102	15 4	2 217	23 7	53 8
PEACH	1 810	45 5	2 348	52 4	15 3
PICKENS	730	27 5	1 104	37 6	36 5
PIERCE	1 122	41 3	1 584	54 5	32 1
PIKE	481	25 7	704	33 1	29 0
POLK	2 035	31 5	2 671	41 1	30 5
PULASKI	842	48 7	503	30 6	-37 2
PUTNAM	1 267	59 1	1 493	65 4	10 7
QUITMAN	251	92 6	242	97 2	4 9
RABUN	649	35 6	783	44 2	24 2
RANDOLPH	1,488	83 9	1 619	88 0	5 0
ROCKDALE	1 412	13 5	2 222	18 5	37 0
SCHLEY	231	53 5	295	68 4	28 0
SCREVEN	1 574	53 5	1 825	58 4	9 2
SEMINOLE	930	50 2	1 142	59 7	18 8
SPALDING	3 894	37 8	4 899	47 9	26 7
STEPHENS	1 095	28 1	1 561	37 9	35 0
STEWART	772	78 9	764	87 7	11 2
SUMTER	3 364	61 8	4 137	72 4	17 0
TALBOT	851	85 6	871	94 6	10 5
TALIAFERRO	166	90 7	173	100 0	10 2
TATTNALL	1 565	50 7	1 919	61 6	21 4
TAYLOR	929	56 2	1 004	63 4	12 8
TELFAIR	1 371	65 1	1 500	69 5	6 8
TERRELL	1,739	93 5	1 693	89 7	-4 1
THOMAS	4 228	52 7	5 227	62 2	18 0
TIFT	3 152	43 2	3 691	49 1	13 7
TOOMBS	2 133	42 6	2 608	52 3	22 8
TOWNS	253	31 0	332	40 4	30 3
TREUTLEN	699	53 4	805	62 3	16 7
TROUP	4,317	40 5	5 291	49 0	21 1
TURNER	1 255	63 0	1 364	70 4	11 7
TWIGGS	1 089	57 2	1 304	68 8	20 2
UNION	738	38 2	889	43 6	14 1
UPSON	1 937	39 8	2 379	48 2	21 1
WALKER	2 326	22 5	3 418	34 0	51 6
WALTON	2 024	27 5	2 951	35 6	29 3
WARE	2 963	43 4	3 422	51 4	18 3
WARREN	926	89 0	959	89 4	0 4
WASHINGTON	2 137	60 2	1 197	32 0	-46 9
WAYNE	1 789	39 0	2 244	46 2	18 4
WEBSTER	217	78 1	227	75 7	-3 1
WHEELER	706	70 0	696	71 8	2 4
WHITE	455	20 3	702	28 1	38 2
WHITFIELD	2,923	22 1	4 589	32 8	48 5
WILCOX	711	52 7	768	56 2	6 7
WILKES	1,052	49 7	1 201	57 3	15 3
WILKINSON	945	44 7	1,104	55 0	23 1
WORTH	1,389	49 2	2,424	56 1	14 0
144 Small Counties	**200,117**	**36 5**	**263,374**	**42 1**	**18 3**
GEORGIA	**384,257**	**34 1**	**508,934**	**41 5**	**21 7**

*Percent change measures the change in rates from 1989 to 1993. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.

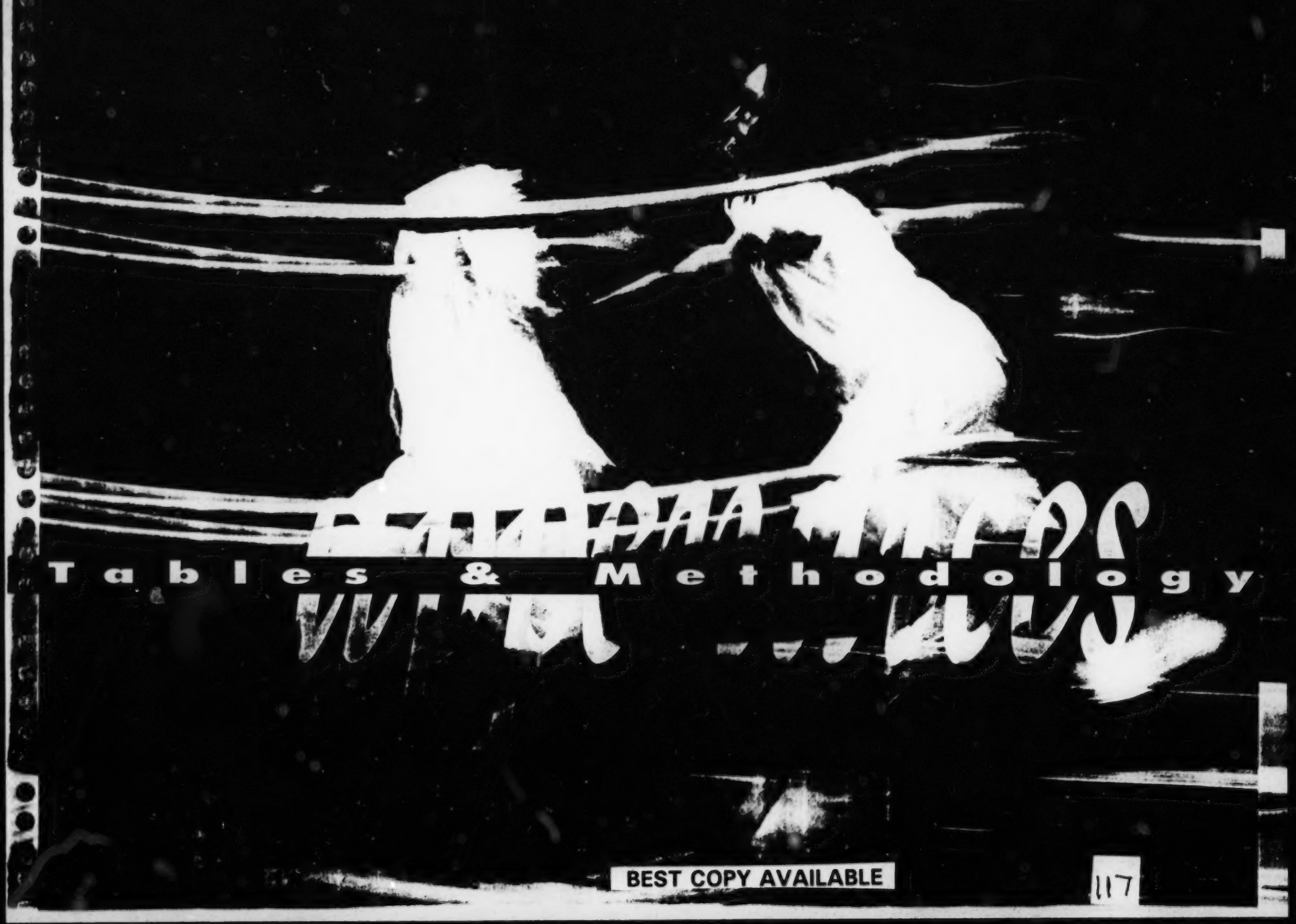

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Table 1. Indicator Trend Data, Georgia Totals, By Year & Race

		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Low Birthweight Births															
TOTAL	Number of low birthweight births	7,997	7,662	7,604	7,519	7,555	7,774	7,969	8,455	8,884	9,222	9,768	9,481	9,502	
	Number of births	92,194	89,805	90,352	90,068	92,258	96,291	98,175	102,486	105,853	110,235	112,573	110,271	111,095	
	Rate (per 100)	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.4	8.4	8.7	8.6	8.6	
WHITE	Number of low birthweight births	3,743	3,452	3,476	3,490	3,541	3,834	3,809	4,094	4,082	4,054	4,355	4,186	4,104	
	Number of births	58,076	56,746	57,471	57,862	59,644	62,452	63,474	66,201	67,191	69,319	70,496	68,242	68,738	
	Rate (per 100)	6.4	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.1	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.0	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of low birthweight births	4,203	4,139	4,076	3,958	3,947	3,869	4,093	4,281	4,698	5,087	5,291	5,171	5,268	
	Number of births	33,288	32,192	31,963	31,258	31,651	32,769	33,547	34,903	37,167	39,378	40,467	40,248	40,332	
	Rate (per 100)	12.6	12.9	12.8	12.7	12.5	11.8	12.2	12.3	12.6	12.9	13.1	12.8	13.1	
Infant Deaths															
TOTAL	Number of deaths	1,456	1,351	1,205	1,232	1,241	1,222	1,225	1,306	1,327	1,357	1,391	1,252	1,139	
	Number of births	92,194	89,805	90,352	90,068	92,258	96,291	98,175	102,486	105,853	110,235	112,573	110,271	111,095	
	Rate (per 1,000)	15.8	15.0	13.3	13.7	13.5	12.7	12.5	12.7	12.5	12.3	12.4	11.4	10.3	
WHITE	Number of deaths	662	614	553	575	605	586	590	678	606	624	633	506	490	
	Number of births	58,076	56,746	57,471	57,862	59,644	62,452	63,474	66,201	67,191	69,319	70,496	68,242	68,738	
	Rate (per 1,000)	11.4	10.8	9.6	9.9	10.1	9.4	9.3	10.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	7.4	7.1	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of deaths	789	733	647	650	629	632	627	620	715	722	744	737	637	
	Number of births	33,288	32,192	31,963	31,258	31,651	32,769	33,547	34,903	37,167	39,378	40,467	40,248	40,332	
	Rate (per 1,000)	23.7	22.8	20.2	20.8	19.9	19.3	18.7	17.8	19.2	18.3	18.4	18.3	15.8	
Child Deaths															
TOTAL	Number of deaths	570	548	495	497	479	478	528	530	518	499	486	492	441	
	Population 1-14	1,242,167	1,253,794	1,265,421	1,277,049	1,288,676	1,300,303	1,311,930	1,323,557	1,335,185	1,346,812	1,358,439	1,370,066	1,381,693	
	Rate (per 100,000)	45.9	43.7	39.1	38.9	37.2	36.8	40.2	40.0	38.8	37.1	35.8	35.9	31.9	
WHITE	Number of deaths	343	304	304	289	270	289	304	306	289	268	278	281	239	
	Population 1-14	823,257	828,014	832,771	837,528	842,285	847,043	851,800	856,557	861,314	866,071	870,828	875,585	880,342	
	Rate (per 100,000)	41.7	36.7	36.5	34.5	32.1	34.1	35.7	35.7	33.6	30.9	31.9	32.1	27.1	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of deaths	223	243	186	206	206	184	216	222	224	225	202	210	195	
	Population 1-14	405,943	411,013	416,083	421,153	426,223	431,293	436,362	441,432	446,502	451,572	456,642	461,712	466,782	
	Rate (per 100,000)	54.9	59.1	44.7	48.9	48.3	42.7	49.5	50.3	50.2	49.8	44.2	45.5	41.8	
Teen Violent Deaths															
TOTAL	Number of violent deaths	454	440	350	324	377	361	376	400	427	417	371	373	353	
	Population 15-19	530,773	527,411	524,049	520,687	517,325	513,963	510,600	507,238	503,876	500,514	497,152	493,790	490,428	
	Rate (per 100,000)	85.5	83.4	66.8	62.2	72.9	70.2	73.6	78.9	84.7	83.3	74.6	75.5	72.0	
WHITE	Number of violent deaths	372	334	263	256	297	290	287	305	308	297	262	233	210	
	Population 15-19	357,566	354,510	351,454	348,398	345,342	342,286	339,230	336,174	333,118	330,062	327,006	323,950	320,894	
	Rate (per 100,000)	104.0	94.2	74.8	73.5	86.0	84.7	84.6	90.7	92.5	90.0	80.1	71.9	65.4	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of violent deaths	79	105	85	67	80	70	88	95	116	118	106	139	141	
	Population 15-19	167,724	166,779	165,835	164,890	163,945	163,001	162,056	161,111	160,166	159,222	158,277	157,332	156,388	
	Rate (per 100,000)	47.1	63.0	51.3	40.6	48.8	42.9	54.3	59.0	72.4	74.1	67.0	88.3	90.2	

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*Percent change measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1989 to the period 1990–1992. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.
NA: Number too small to calculate a rate.

Table 1. Indicator Trend Data, Georgia Totals, By Year & Race (continued)

		1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Births to Teens															
TOTAL	Number of births to teens	8,067	7,371	6,950	6,670	6,550	6,686	6,829	7,056	7,081	7,573	7,390	7,393	7,191	
	Female population 15-17	153,038	151,433	149,828	148,223	146,618	145,014	143,409	141,804	140,199	138,594	136,989	135,384	133,779	
	Rate (per 1,000)	52.7	48.7	46.4	45.0	44.7	46.1	47.6	49.8	50.5	54.6	53.9	54.6	53.8	
WHITE	Number of births to teens	3,393	3,196	2,918	2,941	2,847	3,030	3,090	3,165	3,030	3,213	3,096	3,030	2,935	
	Female population 15-17	102,135	100,806	99,476	98,147	96,817	95,488	94,159	92,829	91,500	90,170	88,841	87,512	86,182	
	Rate (per 1,000)	33.2	31.7	29.3	30.0	29.4	31.7	32.8	34.1	33.1	35.6	34.8	34.6	34.1	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of births to teens	4,657	4,166	4,023	3,719	3,695	3,644	3,717	3,869	4,020	4,321	4,270	4,332	4,218	
	Female population 15-17	49,751	49,300	48,850	48,399	47,948	47,498	47,047	46,596	46,145	45,695	45,244	44,793	44,343	
	Rate (per 1,000)	93.6	84.5	82.4	76.8	77.1	76.7	79.0	83.0	87.1	94.6	94.4	96.7	95.1	
Juveniles Committed to State Custody															
TOTAL	Number of commitments			2,575	2,400	2,233	2,299	2,469	2,567	2,697	3,109	3,376	3,385	3,509	3,631
	Population 10-17			777,054	773,400	769,745	766,090	762,435	758,780	755,126	751,471	747,816	744,161	740,506	736,852
	Rate (per 1,000)			3.3	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.9
WHITE	Number of commitments											1,132	1,082	1,078	1,095
	Population 10-17											481,896	477,455	473,014	468,573
	Rate (per 1,000)											2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of commitments											2,230	2,283	2,385	2,478
	Population 10-17											249,975	249,812	249,650	249,487
	Rate (per 1,000)											8.9	9.1	9.6	9.9
Youth Completing High School															
	Number graduated	61,621	62,963	64,489	63,293	60,718	58,654	59,082	60,018	61,765	61,937	56,605	60,088	59,723	59,443
	Number enrolled	105,055	101,301	102,647	99,726	95,942	93,297	94,227	95,708	100,848	103,534	94,291	97,786	90,309	92,030
	Rate (per 100)	58.7	62.2	62.8	63.5	63.3	62.9	62.7	62.7	61.2	59.8	60.0	61.4	66.1	64.6
Children Retained in Kindergarten															
	Number retained					3,117	5,128	7,227	8,246	10,285	8,944	6,309	5,353	4,913	4,098
	Number enrolled					74,731	80,658	89,847	94,360	98,941	102,600	98,502	98,363	98,757	101,087
	Rate (per 100)					4.2	6.4	8.0	8.7	10.4	8.7	6.4	5.4	5.0	4.1
Families at Risk															
TOTAL	Number of first births with at least one risk factor	14,927	15,282	16,905	17,773	18,420	19,054	19,686	19,190	19,004	19,000	22,242	22,080	21,729	
	Number of first births	31,827	32,991	35,867	37,335	38,808	40,575	41,455	41,190	40,610	39,469	45,562	44,367	44,151	
	Rate (per 100)	46.9	46.3	47.1	47.6	47.5	47.0	47.5	46.6	46.8	48.1	48.8	49.8	49.2	
WHITE	Number of first births with at least one risk factor	8,284	8,230	8,780	9,160	9,199	9,792	9,963	9,627	9,335	9,297	10,973	10,717	10,404	
	Number of first births	22,471	23,149	24,613	25,486	26,311	27,774	28,074	27,934	27,103	26,126	30,231	29,042	28,761	
	Rate (per 100)	36.9	35.6	35.7	35.9	35.0	35.3	35.5	34.5	34.4	35.6	36.3	36.9	36.2	
AFRICAN-AMERICAN	Number of first births with at least one risk factor	6,561	6,955	8,040	8,515	9,122	9,165	9,610	9,426	9,536	9,571	11,104	11,180	11,103	
	Number of first births	9,065	9,516	10,893	11,463	12,113	12,379	12,888	12,668	12,879	12,754	14,603	14,562	14,529	
	Rate (per 100)	72.4	73.1	73.8	74.3	75.3	74.0	74.6	74.4	74.0	75.0	76.0	76.8	76.4	
Child Abuse & Neglect Incidents															
	Number of confirmed incidents													26,758	27,767
	Population ages 0 to 17													1,743,538	1,751,655
	Rate (per 1,000)													15.3	15.9

*Percent change measures the change in rates from the period 1980–1989 to the period 1990–1992. Interpret with caution. Changes may not be statistically significant. See methodology.
NA: Number too small to calculate a rate.

Table 2. Counties Which Have Statistically Significant Changes From The '80s To The '90s At Alpha = .05

Counties with population greater than 80,000

COUNTY	LBW	IMR	CDR	TVD	TBR	COM	HSG	KGR	FRF
BIBB	+				+	+	−		+
CHATHAM	+		−		+	+		−	+
CHEROKEE					−		+	−	−
CLARKE	+				+	+	−	−	+
CLAYTON	+				+	+	−	−	+
COBB	+	−	−			+	+	+	+
DEKALB	+				+	+	−	−	+
DOUGHERTY		−			+	+	−	−	+
FLOYD	−				+			−	+
FULTON	+	−			+	+	−	−	+
GWINNETT						+	+		+
HALL					+		+	−	
HOUSTON					+	+		−	+
MUSCOGEE	+		−	+	+	+	+	−	+
RICHMOND	+				+	+		+	+
15 Large Counties	+	−	−		+	+	−	−	+

Counties with population less than 80,000

COUNTY	LBW	IMR	CDR	TVD	TBR	COM	HSG	KGR	FRF
APPLING							+		
ATKINSON									
BACON							+	−	
BAKER									
BALDWIN	+						+	−	+
BANKS							+	+	
BARROW	−						+	−	−
BARTOW	−	−						−	
BEN HILL	+				+	+	+	−	+
BERRIEN					+		+		
BLECKLEY							+	−	
BRANTLEY	+								+
BROOKS						+	−	−	
BRYAN							+	−	
BULLOCH								−	
BURKE	+					+	+	+	
BUTTS							+	−	
CALHOUN								+	
CAMDEN		−						−	−
CANDLER							+		
CARROLL	−	−				+	+	−	
CATOOSA	+				+				−
CHARLTON							+		
CHATTAHOOCHEE									
CHATTOOGA						+	+	−	
CLAY									
CLINCH						+	−		
COBB		−					+		+
COFFEE					+		−	−	+
COLQUITT				−			+	−	
COLUMBIA							−	−	
COOK								−	−
COWETA								−	+
CRAWFORD	+							−	+
CRISP					+	+		−	+
DADE						+	−	−	

COUNTY	LBW	IMR	CDR	TVD	TBR	COM	HSG	KGR	FRF
DAWSON								−	−
DECATUR	+						+	+	
DODGE					+	+		−	+
DOOLY							−	−	
DOUGLAS						−	−	−	
EARLY						+	+	−	+
ECHOLS					+				
EFFINGHAM						+	+	−	
ELBERT		+			+	+			
EMANUEL							+	+	
EVANS						+			
FANNIN								−	
FAYETTE					−			−	
FORSYTH		−					+	−	−
FRANKLIN						−	−		
GILMER	−						+	−	−
GLASCOCK							−		
GLYNN	+				+		+	−	+
GORDON							+		
GRADY								−	
GREENE							+		
HABERSHAM							+		
HANCOCK						+	+		
HARALSON							+	−	
HARRIS					+	+	−	−	
HART							+	−	
HEARD							+		
HENRY						+	−	+	
IRWIN							+	−	
JACKSON					+	+	−	−	
JASPER								−	
JEFF DAVIS				+			+		
JEFFERSON	+						+	−	
JENKINS						+	+	+	
JOHNSON							+		
JONES							−		+
LAMAR					+		+		+
LANIER									+
LAURENS						+	+	−	
LEE							+		
LIBERTY									−
LINCOLN									
LONG							+		
LOWNDES						+			+
LUMPKIN					+				+
MACON							−		
MADISON								+	+
MARION									
MCDUFFIE							+	−	
MCINTOSH	−							−	
MERIWETHER						+		−	
MILLER									
MITCHELL		−				−	+	−	
MONROE							+	−	
MONTGOMERY					+				
MORGAN							+	−	

COUNTY	LBW	IMR	CDR	TVD	TBR	COM	HSG	KGR	FRF
MURRAY			+				+		
NEWTON						+	−	−	−
OCONEE							+		
OGLETHORPE							−	−	
PAULDING	−						+	−	−
PEACH					+	+	+		
PICKENS									−
PIERCE							+	−	
PIKE									
POLK	−					+	+	−	
PULASKI							+		
PUTNAM									
QUITMAN									
RABUN								+	
RANDOLPH			+						
ROCKDALE							+	−	
SCHLEY									
SCREVEN						+		−	
SEMINOLE						+	+		
SPALDING						+	+	−	
STEPHENS					+		+	−	
STEWART					+				
SUMTER							+		
TALBOT									
TALIAFERRO									
TATTNALL						+	+	−	
TAYLOR	+						+		
TELFAIR						+	+	−	
TERRELL						+	+	−	
THOMAS						+	−	+	+
TIFT						+		−	+
TOOMBS					+	+		−	+
TOWNS							+		
TREUTLEN	−						+		
TROUP						+	−	−	+
TURNER						+	+	−	
TWIGGS								−	
UNION								−	
UPSON						+	+		
WALKER	+					+			
WALTON						+	+		−
WARE						+		−	
WARREN							−		−
WASHINGTON							+	−	
WAYNE		−					+	−	
WEBSTER									
WHEELER							+		
WHITE							+	−	
WHITFIELD						+	+	−	
WILCOX						+			
WILKES						+	+	−	
WILKINSON							−	−	
WORTH						+	+	−	+
144 Small Counties		−	−	−	+	+	+	−	
GEORGIA	+	−	−		+	+	+	−	+

LBW — LOW BIRTHWEIGHT INFANTS
IMR — INFANT DEATHS
CDR — CHILD DEATHS
TVD — TEENAGE DEATHS
TBR — BIRTHS TO TEENS
COM — JUVENILE COMMITMENTS
HSG — HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS
KGR — KINDERGARTEN RETENTIONS
FRF — FAMILIES AT RISK
\+ Statistically significant increase
− Statistically significant decrease

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Table 3. Percent of Families With Children Living Below, At, Or Slightly Above The Poverty Level, Georgia 1992*

PERCENT OF POVERTY LEVEL	VALUE	LOW	HIGH
50%	12.6	9.0	16.2
75%	17.8	13.6	22.0
100%	20.8	16.4	25.2
125%	27.3	22.7	32.0
150%	33.2	28.3	38.2
200%	43.6	38.4	48.8
250%	53.0	47.7	58.2

*Source: 1993 Current Population Survey. Low and high refer to the 90% confidence interval.

METHODOLOGY

The ***1994 Kids Count Factbook*** provides data for ten indicators of child well-being, and the data is presented in three different ways: number, rate, and change over time.

Number The most direct measure of the scope of a problem is the count of the number of events of concern—e.g., the number of low birthweight infants born during a time period. The tables in each indicator section show the number of events (by race—White, African-American, total—if available) for the 1990s. The count of events is a clear measure which defines the societal burden of a problem.

Rate A rate is a measure of the probability of an event—e.g., out of every 100 births, how many will be low birthweight? A rate is calculated by dividing the number of events of interest by the number of persons that are "eligible" for the event. The low birthweight rate is the number of LBW births (over a given time period) divided by the total number of births during the same period. A rate is useful if you wish to compare the severity of the problem in one area (your county) with another area (the state) or some standard (the Year 2000 objectives). However, if you are planning an intervention and estimating the required resources, you will need the actual numbers.

Rate Change In this edition of the ***1994 Kids Count Factbook*** we have introduced a measure of the change in rates for the indicators. The change is calculated as 100 times the rate for the '90s (1990 to 1993) minus the rate for the '80s (1980 to 1989), all divided by the '80s rate. Thus the measure is the percent change relative to the '80s rate. The percent change is reported for individual counties in the tables included in each indicator section. In addition, the percent change is displayed in the maps in the sections. The maps present the counties with greater than a 10% improvement as the lightest colored counties. Those counties whose rate worsened by more than 10% are shown with the darker shading. The mid-range color shows the counties with a 10% or less change in the indicator.

Statistical Considerations

When we look at the change in rate between two periods of time we want to know if we are seeing a real difference or if what we have observed is due solely to chance variation. When we measure an event over two time periods it is unlikely that we will get exactly the same rates, even when the underlying effects are the same. Expecting some difference, we want to know if the difference that we observe is "large enough" so that it is unlikely to have happened by chance. This "large enough" difference is statistical significance.

Three factors determine whether an observed rate difference is statistically significant—the number of events in each time period, the population "at risk" for the event, and the magnitude of the difference. There is a trade off among these factors. If the change is very big, fewer events are needed to detect a statistically significant change. If there are a lot of events, even a small change can be statistically significant.

The alpha level (significance level) is a statistical cutoff point which is quantifying exactly how much change, given the number of events, there has to be before we believe that there is a true change. As in much of epidemiological research, we chose to use 95% confidence limits (alpha equals .05). This means that no more than 5% of the time would we say that there was a true change when in fact it was due only

to random chance; 95% of the time when we say there was a true change it was not due solely to chance variation. Because we are doing statistical tests on 159 counties, by chance alone as many as eight could show statistical significance. We have no way of knowing which ones are "false positives." We only know that 95% of the "statistically significant" changes cannot be explained by chance.

For Statisticians/ Epidemiologists Only

For each of the indicators we made a 2×2 contingency table for each of the 159 counties plus one for the 15 large counties, one for the 144 small counties, and one for the state. We used the chi-square test without the continuity correction for each of the contingency tables to test for statistical significance. In cases where the expected value for any of the four cells was less than five, we used Fisher's exact test. Alpha was set strictly at .05. For any p value below .05 the null hypothesis of no difference was rejected, no matter how close it was to .05; for anything above .05 the null was not rejected, even if it was only slightly above. We did statistical tests for counties which had a calculated rate for both time periods. Although we are conducting multiple statistical tests (up to 162) for each indicator, we did not use the Bonferroni or other correction. We accepted false positives (Type I error) rather than increasing the Type II errors.

Limitations

In any data collection process there are always concerns about the accuracy and completeness of the data being collected. All data used in the ten indicators and the special report were collected through routine data collection systems operated by different agencies of the state of Georgia. We do not have estimates of the completeness of reporting to these systems, and we do not know the accuracy of these systems.

Even if the numbers are complete and accurate, the small population counties may have very few of certain events of interest. Over the 13-year period for which we have death certificate data, 13 Georgia counties had fewer than five violent deaths among teenagers. We cannot calculate statistically stable rates when there are so few events, and we have indicated (by "NA" in the indicator tables) when this occurs.

This year we have continued to calculate rates for the total (all races) population. The total rate is a reasonable measure of the severity of the problem in a given county, and provides a basis for comparison of rates among the counties. A major problem with use of a total rate is that it hides the effect of the racial distributions in Georgia counties. Over 60% of the variation in the low birthweight among counties is explained (statistically) by the percent of child population that is African-American. This data suggests that factors associated with being African-American (poverty, nutrition, family structure, social stress) contribute to the problem.

The issue of racial confounding is a good reason to consider numbers of events by race when using data in the **Factbook.** The actual numbers present a clear picture of the scope of a problem, and they provide a basis for understanding and using rates and the change in rates.

Two factors create difficulties in preparing and presenting county-level data in Georgia. The 159 counties range in population from Fulton, DeKalb and Cobb with more than 100,000 infants, children and youth under the age of 18, to six counties (Clay, Echols, Webster, Quitman, Glascock, and Taliaferro) that have less than 1,000 each (1990 Census data). The large number of small counties makes it difficult to provide rates for many of the indicators—especially on an annual basis. The small number problem was a major reason for presenting multi-year data.

Given the range in county sizes, we defined the 15 largest counties (those counties with a 1990 total population greater than 80,000 persons) as "large counties." These 15 counties contain 53% of the total Georgia population and 51% of the child population.

The 15 large counties are: Bibb, Chatham, Cherokee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Dougherty, Floyd, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Houston, Muscogee and Richmond.

The other problem factor is the variation in racial composition among counties. Seven counties in Northeast Georgia (Dawson, Fannin, Forsyth, Gilmer, Rabun, Towns, and Union) had less than ten African-American children identified in the 1990 Census. There are also seven counties in Central to Southwestern Georgia (Clay, Hancock, Randolph, Stewart, Talbot, Terrell, and Warren) that have a greater than 70% African-American population. Since there are strong associations between "race" and some of the Kids Count indicators, racial composition should be considered when interpreting the data.

Low Birthweight Births

The total number of births of infants weighing less than 5.5 pounds (2,500 grams) to Georgia women from 1980 to 1989 and from 1990 to 1992 were used as numerators for the rate calculations. The sum of the total live births for the same two periods were used for the denominators. Births occurring on military bases in Georgia were included in the county totals of the county in which the base was located. The rate was calculated as 100 times the number of low birthweight infants divided by the number of births.

Infant Deaths

Data were compiled from birth and death certificate records from 1980 through 1992, through the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Center for Health Information, Vital Records Unit. The total number of deaths of infants less than one year of age from 1980 to 1989 and from 1990 to 1992 were used as numerators for the rate calculations. The sums of the total live births for the same two periods were used for the denominators. All deaths to infants whose state of residence was listed as Georgia—even if the the death occurred outside of Georgia—were included in the count. However deaths in Georgia to non-Georgia residents were not included. The rates were calculated as 1,000 times the number of infant deaths divided by the number of live births.

Child Deaths

Data were compiled from death certificate records for Georgia residents from 1980 through 1992, through the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Center for Health Information, Vital Records Unit. The total number of deaths to all causes for children from one year of age to 14 years from 1980 to 1989 and from 1990 to 1992 were used as numerators for the rate calculations. The denominators were estimated from a linear extrapolation of the 1980 and 1990 census populations. For example, the 1992 child population is calculated as the 1990 population plus two-tenths of the change in population from 1980 to 1990. The number of child-years for the three year period (or the 10-year period for the '80s) is the sum of the child populations for the three years (1990 to 1992). The rate is calculated as 100,000 times the total number of child deaths (for the three years) divided by the number of child-years.

If fewer than five child deaths occurred in a county over the three year period, no rate was calculated for that county. This is indicated in the county table by "NA" for the rate, and the county is put in the "less than 10% change" category on the map.

Teen Violent Deaths

Data were compiled from death certificate records for Georgia residents from 1980 through 1992, through the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Center for Health Information, Vital Records Unit. The methodology for calculation of the teen violent death rate was the same as that used for the child death rate. The violent deaths to persons ages 15 to 19 were identified from the International Classification of Diseases (CD 9) "short codes" and include all deaths with codes from 50 to 62 inclusive. This does include among "violent" deaths, deaths due to medical complications (code 55) and adverse drug reaction (code 59).

If fewer than 5 teen violent deaths were recorded for a given county over the three year period, a teen violent death rate was not calculated for that county. This is indicated in the county table by "NA" for the rate, and the county is put in the "less than 10% change" category on the map.

Abused and Neglected Children

Data were compiled from confirmed incident reports for 1992 and 1993. All confirmed incidents of abuse or neglect during this period were used for the rate numerators. If there were less than five confirmed incidents for a given county, a rate was not calculated.

The denominators were estimated from a linear extrapolation of the 1980 and 1990 census population values. The 1993 population under age 18 was calculated as the 1990 population plus three-tenths of the change in population from 1980 to 1990. The rate was calculated as 1,000 times the number of confirmed incidents divided by the 1993 population less than age 18.

Incidents of child abuse and neglect are reported to the Child Protective Services (CPS) Department of the Division of Family and Children's Services. Reports of suspected child abuse and neglect are investigated by CPS workers to determine the veracity of the report.

Of several reporting systems maintained by CPS, the child abuse registry of all confirmed incidents

was chosen because it used consistent definitions for the time period of the study. The file used to produce the data is updated as required (the year is not closed). The child abuse data in this report was produced on 3/2/94.

Births to Teens

Data were compiled from birth certificate records for Georgia residents from 1980 through 1992, through the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Center for Health Information, Vital Records Unit. The numerators for the teen birth rate calculations are the sum over the three year period of all births to girls whose age at delivery was less than 18. (Age at delivery is calculated from birth certificate data—the difference between the mother's date of birth and the birth date for the infant.) The denominators are the sum of the 15 to 17 year old female populations for the three year period. The population values were estimated from a linear extrapolation of the 1980 and 1990 census population values. The rate is calculated as 1,000 times the sum of the teen births over the three year period, divided by the sum of the populations.

Juveniles Committed to State Custody

The Department of Children and Youth Services provided data on the number of youth ages 10 through 17 who were placed by court order in state custody. The rate numerators are the sum of all youth committed from 1982 through 1989 and 1990 through 1993. The youth populations were estimated by a linear extrapolation from the 1980 and 1990 youth populations. The denominators are the sum of the youth populations for the two periods. The custody rates are calculated as 1,000 times the total number of youth placed in custody during this period, divided by the sum of the youth populations for the period. If there were less than 5 commitments in a given county during the three year period, no rate was calculated.

Youth Completing High School

Data on high school graduates were obtained from the Georgia Department of Education. The numerators are the total number of high school graduates from 1980 through 1989 and 1990 through 1993. The denominators are the sums over the 10 or 4 year period of students enrolled in the ninth grade three years earlier (1977–1990). The rate is calculated as 100 times the total graduates divided by the total ninth grade enrollment. If there was no public high school or if the public high school closed in a county during this period, no rate was calculated for that county. All city school systems were added in with the county in which they are located. This number is not adjusted for in- and out-migration and does not include students who receive GED certificates.

Children Retained in Kindergarten

Data on children retained in kindergarten were obtained from the Department of Education. The sums of all children retained in kindergarten from 1984 through 1989 and 1990 through 1993 were used as the numerator. The sums of all kindergarten enrollments during the same period were used as the denominators. The rates were calculated as 100 times the retentions divided by the enrollments. Race-specific data are not available. These data do not reflect special programs found in some Georgia school districts that place children who have completed kindergarten in transitional classrooms.

Families at Risk

Data on first births to mothers with one or more risk factors were compiled from birth certificate records for Georgia residents from 1980 through 1992, through the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health, Center for Health Information, Vital Records Unit. The three risk factors considered were age (less than 20 years old), education (not a high school graduate), and marital status (unmarried). The numerators were the sums of all first births from 1980 to 1989 and from 1990 to 1992 to women who had at least one of the risk factors.

The denominators were calculated as the sums of all first births to white or African-American women during the two periods. The rates were obtained by multiplying 100 times the sums of first births with risk factors, divided by all first births. Only singleton births were used to avoid counting a multiple birth as 2 or more families at risk. Multiple births represent only a very small portion of births.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

Data on children less than 18 receiving AFDC were obtained from the Division of Family and Children Services.

Georgia Department of Human Resources. The average number of children less than 18 receiving AFDC per month for 1989 and 1993 were used as numerators for the rate calculations. The denominators were estimated from a linear interpolation/extrapolation of the 1980 and 1990 census populations. The 1989 population under age 18 was calculated as the 1980 population plus nine-tenths of the change in population from 1980 to 1990. The 1993 population was calculated the same way as for abused and neglected children. The percent of children receiving AFDC was calculated as 100 times the average number of children receiving AFDC divided by the population less than 18.

School Lunch

Data on students receiving free or reduced price school lunch were obtained from the Georgia Department of Education. The numerators are the total number of students enrolled in the free or reduced school lunch program in October 1989 and October 1993. The denominators are the average number of students enrolled in school from kindergarten through 12th grade over three periods for each of the school years 1989–1990 and 1993–1994. The percent of students enrolled in the school lunch program was calculated as 100 times the number of students receiving free or reduced price school lunch in October divided by the average enrollment for that school year. Since lunch program enrollment is calculated at one point during the school year and school enrollment is an average over three periods, the denominator is only a close estimate of the number of students who could have potentially enrolled in the school lunch program in October. If some students later move either in or out of the school system, the average school enrollment would differ slightly from the number actually enrolled in school in October. This, however, is the best estimate we have. Because of this slight variation, when we calculated the percent of students enrolled in the school lunch program, two counties showed a slightly greater than one hundred percent school lunch program participation for 1993–1994. A variation may occur in all of the counties for both years, but because Baker and Taliaferro are small counties with a high free or reduced price school lunch participation rate for the 1993–1994 school year, a slight decline in the student enrollment later on in the school year would be enough to push the percent school lunch participation calculation over the one hundred percent mark. Since we know that no more students can be receiving free or reduced price school lunch than are enrolled in school, we put the percentage rate at one hundred percent.

Georgia Kids Count Advisory Committee

Dr. William Weston, III
Advisory Committee Chair
Medical College of Georgia

Bill Dahlberg,
President & CEO
Georgia Power Company

Yvonne DeWright
Host "Latin Atlanta"

James Ledbetter
Commissioner
Georgia Department of
Human Resources

George Napper, Jr.
Commissioner
Georgia Department of
Children & Youth Services

Judy B. Neal
Executive Director
Children & Youth
Coordinating Council

Roy Plaut, Jr.
Kimberly Clark Corporation

Alexis Scott Reeves
Director of Diversity &
Community Affairs
Cox Enterprises

Werner Rodgers
State Superintendent of Schools
Georgia Department of
Education

B. Franklin Skinner
Chair & CEO
BellSouth Telecommunications

Marjorie Smith
Commissioner
Department of Medical
Assistance

Michael Walters
Vice-President of
Human Resources
Coca-Cola Company

Patrick Meehan
Director
Division of Public Health
Georgia Department of
Human Resources

Sue Whitney
President
League of Women Voters

Janet Rechtman
Deeley Rechtman
Communications

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Georgia Kids Count
Georgians for Children
3091 Maple Drive, NE, Suite 114
Atlanta, Georgia 30305
Phone: (404) 365-8948
Fax: (404) 365-9009